



A fireman hosing down rubble that, before the weekend of riot and destruction, had been the Railton Road sub-post office in Brixton.

# Lord Scarman to hold Brixton inquiry

By Fred Emswiler  
Political Editor

An urgent public inquiry is to be conducted into the Brixton riots by Lord Scarman, one of Britain's most senior judges, who will have powers to require evidence and grant witnesses immunity from prosecution, if necessary.

Announcing this in the House of Commons yesterday, Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, also confirmed that official compensation will be paid, through the police, for damages to property during the three days of disorder under the Riot Damages Act.

Turning aside Opposition pleas to widen the inquiry, Mr Whitelaw insisted that Lord Scarman would be able to interpret his terms of reference to include the effects of unemployment and poor housing as well as the relationship between the police and public.

The Home Secretary said he had acted rapidly to secure the services of Lord Scarman because he wanted the inquiry to provide a "quick answer".

Mr Whitelaw gave no time-scale, however. Informed sources later suggested that the inquiry might take about the same time as the seven months it took Lord Scarman to report after his 1974 inquiry into the Red Lion Square disturbance.

Asked about the proposed rail in Brixton next Sunday, Mr Whitelaw did not condemn it but stated in the Commons that he hoped "everyone will seek to do their best to cool the situation on the ground".

He looked for support for having taken what he called "very quick and decisive action" in setting up the inquiry.

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The inquiry is being set up under section 82 of the Police Act, 1964, which specifically includes "any matter connected with the policing of any area". Lord Scarman's terms of reference are: "To inquire into the events which took place in Brixton on April 10 to 12 and to report, with the power to make recommendations".

The proceedings will be held in public, except where Lord Scarman may decide it appropriate to hear evidence in private. Whether evidence is taken on oath is also at Lord Scarman's discretion. His power to grant immunity could obviously affect prosecutions. That, the reason behind one of Mr Whitelaw's answers — which caused Conservative backbenchers some disquiet. Mr Whitelaw said he was advised that there was no reason why charges being brought against those involved could not proceed. "Whether that continues to be the case must depend on the progress of the inquiry."

Reaction in the Commons divided generally on predictable party lines with Conservatives concentrating on the criminal and the Labour side on the social aspect. Mr Whitelaw was all understanding, saying that everything could be

looked at in the inquiry. But, to repeat what he said, he finally retorted: "I do not think we can buy our way out of these particular problems".

Lord Scarman, who is 70 later this summer, is a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, who has also identified himself strongly with moves for constitutional reform. His report on the Red Lion Square demonstration was widely regarded as a model of its kind. When a Labour left-winger yesterday questioned what he could know of life in Brixton, Mr Whitelaw's insistence that Lord Scarman had the support from all sides of the House gained vigorous indications of respect from the Labour front bench.

According to our legal correspondent governments have

become used to sending for Lord Scarman when faced with sensitive issues. He investigated the riots in Northern Ireland in the summer of 1980; that report is regarded still as a model of lucid analysis. His inquiry into the Greenwich affair was perhaps less successful, namely because the issue was too overtly political.

Mr Whitelaw's announcement of the casualties and the "enormous" damage was heard in silence by the Labour benches, in marked contrast to Conservative backbenchers who voiced strong agreement with his tribute to the "great bravery and professionalism" of the police, and with his insistence that violence would not be condoned whatever grievances individuals might feel.

The Council of Civil Service Unions' reaction last night was to say that the country's 540,000 white-collar civil servants would be invited to take part in half-day strikes on April 15 and 16, in protest at the Government's 7 per cent pay offer.

The move, which came after high-level ministerial discussions came after the Resolution had arrived at Faslane in the Gairloch, eight miles by road and 25 by sea from the Coulport Royal Navy Armament Depot.

The Ministry of Defence said last night that the 16 Navy personnel were working "to assist in carrying out one aspect of the preparation of HMS Resolution before she goes on patrol."

The council said last night that London driving tests could be effected directly because of the suspension of inland Revenue staff at Acton, west London. It said that post was no longer reaching the building, which also houses the Metropolitan Police area office. This notice is expected throughout London of driving tests.

Driving test cancellations are expected to be halted in Doncaster today after a walkout by the town's examiners. About 15 customs officers who process "business courier" cargo also came out on selective strike yesterday.

Most of the 60,000 people who receive between £40 and £50.50 a week under the Government's job release scheme may not receive their fortnightly giro cheques until after Easter because of action by computer staff at the Department of Employment's Runcorn centre.

The payments are made to women of 59 and men of 64, including about 15,000 disabled people who leave their jobs under the scheme to make way for unemployed young people. The department said people facing hardship because of the hold-up should report to their local Department of Health and Social Security offices.

"Fair" offer: Interviewed by Mr Alistair Burnet on ITN's News at Ten as she approaches the end of her second year in Government, Mrs Margaret Thatcher tried sounding conciliatory towards the striking civil servants (our Political Editor writes). She said she wanted them to have a system of pay that was fair but fair, too, for the great British taxpayer.

Mrs Thatcher said she hoped that the recession was "at the bottom" but she cautioned against assuming that "things will suddenly improve". She said so much depended on the loyalty of workers to their companies in moderating pay demands.

Letters, page 15

## Gangs of youths renew attacks on police and property

By David Nicholson-Lord  
Severn-Tamworth  
Nicholas Timmins  
John Withers  
Martin Huckerby

Violence broke out in Brixton again last night, with mobs of youths setting light to at least seven cars, stoning police, and smashing shop windows.

As the community tried to repair the damage of three nights of violence, believing that at last tempers had begun to cool, youths, both black and white and many in their early teens, launched a series of sporadic attacks on police and property.

The trouble started shortly after the end of a meeting of the Brixton Defence Campaign in Abing Hall. Between two and three hundred people ran past Brixton police station close by, to be pursued by police and split up. Several shop windows were smashed in the main shopping street, Brixton Road.

In Railton Road, the scene of the worst rioting of the weekend, cars were set alight and about 250 police were on

the scene, some carrying riot shields, used in a brief skirmish in which youths hurled bricks from a wall.

The stormy meeting of the defence campaign had broken up without reaching any decision on what action to take over alleged police brutality. It meets again tomorrow.

Mr Rudy Narayan, the barrister involved in organizing the campaign, said the youths from the front line, otherwise known as Railton Road, wanted an immediate march on the police station.

A Times reporter leaving the meeting was attacked by a group of angry youths, who smashed his tape recorder and stole money from his wallet.

The new violence occurred as attempts were being made to restore a semblance of normalcy to the buildings still smouldering from earlier riots.

Nine of the policemen injured over the weekend were still detained in hospital, including one constable who was unconscious with a fractured skull.

More than 75 people

appeared in south London courts yesterday, charged with such offences as assaulting the police, theft, and criminal damage; the majority were remanded on bail, but there were fines of up to £250 for several offenders.

Work continued on repairing the physical damage: nine buildings, including a public house and many shops, were demolished in the violence; 11 more were seriously damaged; 47 buildings were looted. Some estimates put the cost of the destruction at more than £2m.

Attempts were also under way to treat the less visible wounds suffered by the community. Mr Courtney Laws, the black director of the Brixton Neighbourhood Community Association, warned outsiders to stay away, arguing that confrontation was needed, not confrontation.

Local blacks appeared to give short shrift to left-wing political groups seeking to organize action over the violence. Some of those associated with the

Brixton Defence Committee, however, sounded more militant when talking of the plan for a rally next Sunday, with people invited from all over Britain.

Harsh criticism of the police came from national figures, including politicians, trade unionists, and the Bishop of Southwark, the Right Rev Ronald Bowley, who joined local councillors and community leaders in condemning police methods in Brixton.

Mr Ted Knight, leader of Lambeth Council, criticized the police as "almost an army of occupation within the borough".

Support, however, came from members of the public who called at Brixton police station with gifts for the injured officers and messages of support.

To reduce tension, Mr Knight wanted the police to drop most of the charges against those arrested. He also demanded government action to tackle the social and economic problems in Brixton which played so great a part in creating the turmoil.

## Thatcher criticism of violence

By Our Political Editor

Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, last night said she could not condemn too strongly the violence by Brixton rioters. She acknowledged the deep mistrust by young blacks of the police but said "nothing, nothing justifies what happened".

It was totally wrong that anyone should attempt to take it out on the police.

Interviewed on ITN's News at Ten Mrs Thatcher said that "two-way trust" was the key to restoring the situation. "I do not know quite how to get it", Mrs Thatcher said. "Sometimes too much money does not help to solve problems. It causes more trouble."

Mrs Thatcher said she did not accept that unemployment was a primary cause of the disorders. She remarked that in the thirties unemployment had been higher but there had been no violence. She did acknowledge, however, that among "young West Indians" unemployment was particularly high, but she repeated that that

could not justify what had happened.

Mrs Thatcher insisted that money had been poured into Lambeth. She said £3m had been spent there last year on partnership schemes; the borough enjoyed a high rate of support grant and £40m had been spent on housing. But she insisted that it would be a mistake to think that money could solve the problem. "Money cannot buy either trust or racial harmony," she said.

Mr Enoch Powell's remark: "You have been nothing yet" (which he repeated in the Commons from his speech two weeks ago), was "very, very alarming", Mrs Thatcher said.

Mrs Thatcher also vehemently condemned the Lambeth Labour councillors who had referred to the police as an "army of occupation". She declared: "What absolute nonsense. What an appalling remark. I condemn the person who made it."

She said had the police withdrawn, as had been suggested, they would have been subject to the gravest criticism.



Missing tiles appear as black rectangles in a photograph sent by a television camera on the shuttle.

## Confidence over shuttle despite loss of tiles

From Michael Leapman  
Cape Canaveral, April 13

Halfway in its 54-hour mission, with 19 of 36 Earth orbits completed, most systems in the space shuttle Columbia continued to function as planned today. The astronauts, Commander John Young and Captain Robert Crippen, remained chirpy and confident.

Yet although officials continued to appear nonchalant about the 15 heat-resistant tiles which tore away during lift-off, it was increasingly clear that they were going to put a long-term blight over the mission.

In today's papers pictures of the damaged tile section of the craft shared front pages with those of the exciting lift-off, the trail of white smoke pouring from the soaring spacecraft. Officials would have much preferred the launch photographs to have had the pages to themselves.

Much of the purpose of such highly-publicized landings is to give the public acceptance for higher government expenditure on space. Confidence is unlikely to be created by pictures of the ultra-modern craft that show it looking like the patched bath-tub of a do-it-yourself handyman.

There is no reason to doubt

the continued assurance of experts here that the loss of the tiles is not critical and will not endanger the craft or the crew when they reenter the earth's atmosphere tomorrow. Officials, however, still await the result of high-resolution photography from land-based cameras to see from land-based cameras to see whether any tiles are missing from the underbelly of the craft, which would present a much greater hazard. That part of the craft undergoes the fiercest heat on reentry.

Mr John Yardley, the director of the space shuttle program, said today that only 20 per cent of the tiles on the bottom — which are black and white like the others — are critical that the loss of just one would impair the space shuttle. The high-resolution cameras, owned by the Air Force, are based in Florida and Hawaii. If their pictures do locate damage to any of the tiles on the underside, preventive measures would be taken to minimize the chance of disaster.

The few other problems experienced during the flight have been minor. The flight recorder has refused to switch itself off and a leaking valve caused pressurization problems. These were solved.

Another photograph and spotting the defects, page 7

## Night of violence in Berlin

From Patricia Clough  
Bonn, April 13

Fears of even worse violence mounted today after a night of rioting, arson, and attacks on a United States military train and vehicles by supporters of 26 terrorists on hunger strike in jail.

A demonstration by about 500 sympathizers in West Berlin turned into a riot after rumours spread that one of the hunger strikers, Herr Sigurd Debus, aged 36, had died. Police denied the rumour.

Herr Debus, who is serving a 12-year sentence for bank robbery and plotting bomb attacks, is in a Hamburg hospital, where his chances of surviving much longer are said to be slim.

The terrorists want to be put together in large groups and to be treated as political prisoners, but the authorities have refused.

Their other aim is to provoke violence and terror from sympathizers.

West Berlin's main boulevard, the Kurfürstendamm, was strewn with glass this morning after demonstrators rampaged throughout the night, breaking almost all the windows and plundering shops.

They dragged vehicles across the road to make barricades, and threw fire bombs at banks. Twenty people were detained and one policeman was hurt.

In Frankfurt sympathizers smashed windows of banks and businesses.

An American military train was stopped and damaged. No one was hurt, but damage was estimated at about DM200,000 (£40,000).

The United States, and in particular its capitalism, multinational companies and its role in Vietnam, have been a favourite target for the West German terrorist movement since its beginnings a decade ago. Three United States soldiers were killed in bomb attacks on bases in 1972.

## Signs point to end of recession

Tentative signs that the recession has passed its worst point have appeared. New Government figures show that manufacturing industry has experienced its first monthly rise in production since the autumn of 1979 — although of less than 1 per cent — and in a West Midlands survey 17 per cent of companies forecast increased profitability compared with 9 per cent in December.

## GM for siege heroes

Police Constable Trevor Lock, hero of the Iranian embassy siege, and an unnamed SAS soldier have been awarded the George Medal. Four other SAS men, including the officer in charge of the operation, receive the Queen's Gallantry Medal for what the citation calls "a brilliantly carried-out rescue".

## Union hint of rail strike

Rail union leaders, dismayed by British Rail's 7 per cent pay offer, are to consult their executives. All three unions are seeking increases not below the miners' 13 per cent, and the assistant general secretary of the NUR said he could "see our members taking strike action".

## Labour election drive

The Labour Party launched its national campaign aimed at making large gains at the local government elections on May 7.

## Six London MPs in mid-term honours list

Among 15 new life peers in the mid-term honours list Mr Michael Foot has submitted six to strengthen the Opposition in the Lords. Five are former Labour MPs with junior ministerial experience. The list includes a former Conservative junior minister. The decision has aroused the wrath of left-wing members.

## Bank to implement rise

Lloyds Bank will implement its 10 per cent pay offer at the end of the month despite opposition from the Banking Insurance and Finance Union. Other banks will follow although may not pay the increase until next month. Bifu has already called a 24-hour strike by 8,000 staff in banks and cash centres in the provinces and London for next Thursday.

## Polish reforms urged

The Polish Government has been urged by newspapers to show that it can act without coercion by using the hoped-for lull in strikes to push through reforms. Two leading newspapers said many Poles believed that some authorities acted only under the threat of strikes or similar action.

## Fleet Street: The National Graphical Association

is to advise its members on national newspapers to reject an 8 per cent pay offer. Chad: In a hospital without drugs, children play among war victims.

## Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 26, 28; Appointments, 26; Legal appointments, 22; Sale room and antiques, 26.

Preview of World Championship. Business News, pages 18-24. Stock Markets: The hammered stockbroking firm depressed market trading with leading equities recording small losses. Cites closed up to £1 easier on the day. The FT index closed down 4.7 at 266.6. Financial Editor: Glaxo regains its glamour. Business features: Michael Prest on the money Poland owes to the West; David Blake on why Europe's recession may be worse than expected.

### HOUSE & GARDEN REAL-LIFE DECORATION & FURNISHING GUIDE

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The HOUSE & GARDEN REAL-LIFE GUIDES are a series of magazines with special appeal to everyone planning to redecorate or remodel their home. The DECORATION & FURNISHING GUIDE, on sale now, features hundreds of ideas for making your home more comfortable and more attractive — with practical information on furniture and furnishing — new fabrics, carpets, wallpapers, lights and a special Young Homemaker section.

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Please send a cheque for £2.00 (includes postage and packing) to Cosh Sales, Carnage, Tavistock Road, West Drayton, Middlesex, UB7 7OE.







## George Medal award for PC Lock and embassy siege rescuer

By Our Political Staff

Police Constable Trevor Lock, of the Metropolitan Police, and one of the Special Air Service Regiment soldiers in the siege of the Iranian Embassy in April, 1980, have been awarded the George Medal for gallantry.

Four other SAS men featured in what is described in the citation as "a brilliantly carried out rescue". The awards will probably be handed to the men by the Queen.

PC Lock was on duty at the Embassy when he was confronted at the entrance by a man with a machine pistol. He tried to close the door and there was a struggle in which he was hit in the head and overpowered. Six terrorists then burst into the Embassy firing their weapons at the walls and ceilings, and 26 other people were taken hostage.

Although he was searched, PC Lock successfully kept his revolver hidden during the five days and nights of the siege. During that period, the citation says, "Constable Lock was a self-appointed duty with very little sleep, food or drink, and remained cool and calm, with the result that he gradually built up a rapport with the terrorists."

"This had a calming effect on the terrorists at his presence on more than one occasion when, but for his intervention, the hostages' lives might have been lost." He was also continually called on to negotiate with the authorities outside the Embassy.

On the sixth and final day the atmosphere became extremely tense. The gunmen set a deadline for their terms to be met, and during the morning one of the hostages was killed and his body placed outside the Embassy.

Minutes before the rescue assault, PC Lock, alone with the terrorist leader, was called to the telephone. He heard breaking glass and a loud explosion, and realizing the operation had begun, shoulder charged the terrorist.

The gunman was caught off-balance and his weapon fell to the floor. During a struggle PC Lock overpowered him, drew his revolver and covered the man. An explosive device thrown into the room forced the two men apart but the constable recaptured and held the terrorist.

Later this week the High Court in Manchester will be asked to issue an interim injunction against the party members, including Mrs Shirley Williams, Mr William Rodgers, Mr Roy Jenkins and Dr David Owen, to stop them using the name.

The plaintiff is a left-wing party formed in March, 1980, called the Social Democratic Party. It has put up candidates in elections in Sheffield, Manchester and Glasgow, and Manchester barrister, a member of the original SDP, is filing the claim.

Yesterday their spokesman,

## Labour plan for industry to revive rural areas

More industry and better public transport for rural areas were urged yesterday in a rural revival programme by the Labour Party's national executive.

More than 60 recommendations were put forward in a statement by the executive after a conference in York aimed at helping rural areas.

As well as a significant expansion of light industry geared to local resources and local needs and radical improvements in the public transport network, the statement calls for efforts to retain village schools.

A general increase in expenditure on public services and free installation and rental of telephones for the elderly in need, the disabled and the chronically sick are also recommended.

A widening of the scope and an increase in the financial resources of the Development Commission, encouragement of the National Enterprise Board and the Cooperative Development Agency to become involved in rural projects were also urged, together with the appointment of a coordinating minister for rural affairs.

The statement, *Out of Town, Out of Mind: A Programme for Rural Revival*, says the greatest and cheapest potential rural job creation exists in light industry. "Small, localized projects would be able to blend into the countryside while satisfying the limited employment needs of a small community", it said.

"Experience shows the benefits quickly spread to the remainder of the village and start off a total revival."

The statement also made recommendations on rural housing policy, including the need for more rented housing, the use of empty property and action for areas of high second home ownership.

gunman until the soldiers burst in. "Constable Lock displayed gallantry and devotion to duty of a high order when, in spite of the long strain and ordeal of the long siege, he tackled and overpowered this armed man, who had already caused the taking of many hostages", the citation concludes.

The unnamed soldier who also receives the George Medal was in the first wave of rescuers from the roof, but he found himself suspended ten feet above a balcony when his assault device jammed. His comrades threw assault grenades into an adjoining room, which rapidly became an inferno because inflammable material had been strewn there.

He was badly burnt by flames billowing out from the window and, while in considerable pain, had himself cut loose and fell to the balcony. He then entered the building.

The citation states that "without doubt the successful rescue of the majority of the hostages was due to his quick thinking, his courage and personal example". Regardless of his injuries and the fire raging on the second floor, he continued to lead his men "with coolness and decisiveness".

The officer in charge receives his award for reconnoitring and organizing the plan, which called for split-second timing to ensure minimum casualties among the hostages.

The citation says he displayed personal courage, leadership and tactical brilliance of the highest order. He inspired not only his own men but also the police by his example, calmness and good humour."



Police Constable Trevor Lock: "Gallantry and devotion to duty."

## Court challenge to SDP over name of party

From Our Correspondent

The Social Democrats face a court fight to make a change in their name. Writing in the *Guardian* today, an about 25 people, including the "Gang of Four", alleging that they "purloined" the SDP tag.

Later this week the High Court in Manchester will be asked to issue an interim injunction against the party members, including Mrs Shirley Williams, Mr William Rodgers, Mr Roy Jenkins and Dr David Owen, to stop them using the name.

The plaintiff is a left-wing party formed in March, 1980, called the Social Democratic Party. It has put up candidates in elections in Sheffield, Manchester and Glasgow, and Manchester barrister, a member of the original SDP, is filing the claim.

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## Whitehall brief: Why 95 per cent of defence budget is devoted to containing the Soviet Union

## Russian leaders face some sharp choices throughout the next decade

By Peter Hennessey

What is the intelligence estimate of the Soviet Union's intentions and capabilities that lies behind Britain's defence spending in this thirty-sixth year of the cold war that developed between Russia and the Western allies from the moment Hitler's Germany was defeated?

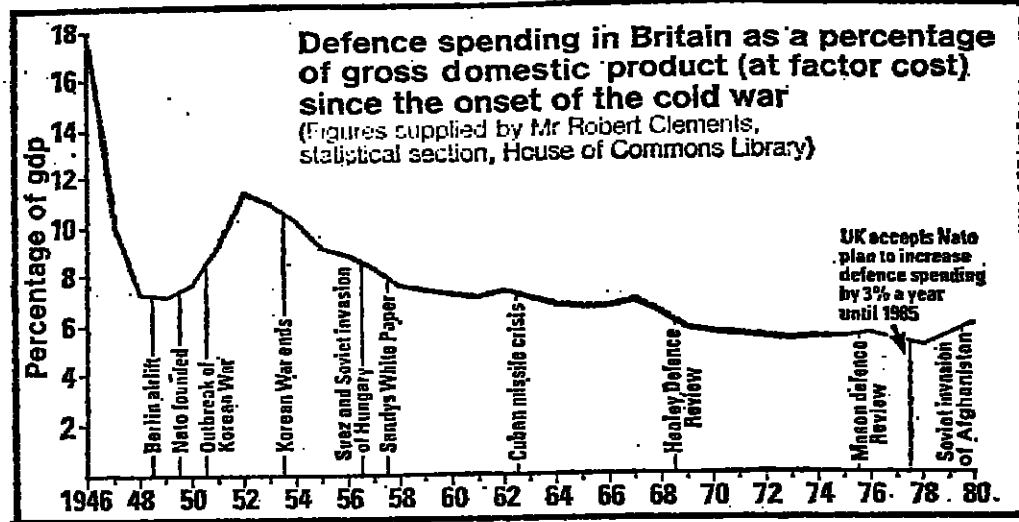
It is an intriguing question to ask the day before the Government's annual defence White Paper is published and at a time when the Ministry of Defence is in the throes of a thoroughgoing review of its commitments as the country's poor economic performance places the defence budget under pressure.

Governments of both parties have taken the potential Soviet menace seriously since 1945. Britain has consistently defended the high proportion of its gross domestic product to defence than any of its Nato allies except the United States.

A good place to start is with a top secret Chiefs of Staff Committee document declassified in January which surveyed "the Spread of Russian Communism" less than a month after the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950.

More as in the United States, the Korean conflict caused the cold war mould to set hard, very largely determining the shape of the West's defence posture ever since.

The paper prepared for the Chiefs of Staff planning staff in August, 1950, summed up the Soviet intention: "The Russian aim in cold and hot war is to establish a



communist world dominated by Moscow. It listed four methods by which the Russians had extended their control since 1945:

By supporting a coup d'état in Czechoslovakia; By political pressure as in Poland; By the support, either directly or indirectly, through satellites, of communist rebellions, as in China; By Russian-inspired military aggression as in Korea.

The document ends by listing 25 places and areas whose loss in the cold war would have important strategic consequences for the West.

What would a comparable paper produced inside the Ministry of Defence look like today? It would be more sophisticated, less monolithic in its view of communism's many varieties but still, in its way, menacing in offering a clear explanation of why 95 per cent of the country's defence budget is even now devoted to containing the Soviet Union.

The Russia watchers in Whitehall reckon that the Soviet Union is motivated by both expansionist and defensive impulses. The leadership in Moscow, according to their assessment, continues to believe in the historical inevitability of Marxism-Leninism triumphing all over the world under Soviet guidance, though the Kremlin

sets no time limit on its achievement and remains obsessed, in the light of history, with the need to protect its own homeland from invasion.

The Whitehall intelligence community has not been affected by the "revisionist" debate about the origins of the cold war that has flourished, particularly in the United States, since the mid-1960s. Revisionists emphasize the defensive roots of Moscow's foreign policy, but Whitehall analysts are convinced that the Russians believe that the most effective way of protecting the homeland is to have strong capability for offensive attack to ensure that any future war is not fought on their

own soil, a perspective for which the revisionist case is of little relevance.

British intelligence can produce a depressing picture of a Soviet Union continuing to devote between 12 and 14 per cent of its gross national product to defence, having reached a position of equivalence with the United States on nuclear weapons and with the strong possibility that many of the innovations in military technology in the 1980s will come from Russian rather than American laboratories. It can also produce an alarming list of missiles, tanks, aircraft and ships that poured out of Soviet factories last year.

Defence intelligence analysts have been accused by some insiders familiar with their product of overdoing the Soviet threat, thereby raising the risk of defeatism. The Russians simply cannot be that good, effortlessly extending their power over all quarters of the globe. They must have their difficulties too, the dissenters maintain.

The intelligence community would agree about Soviet weakness and believes the Russian leadership is going to be faced with some sharp choices in the 1980s. They point to Russia's poor economic performance and lack of productivity outside its military procurement industries, to worries about its ethnic minorities, its satellites and above all, China. The Central Intelligence Agency estimates that Russia will become a net importer of energy by 1985.

Are we doomed to watch

West and East continuing to equip themselves with bigger and better weapons in the next 10 years, each acting in the mirror-image of the other, alarmed by rival intelligence agencies ferrying unrelievedly bad tidings?

The Whitehall branch of the world intelligence establishment is not convinced that we are, and is adamant that if there was to be a softening of Soviet attitudes, it would swiftly pick them up and convey the good news to the decision-makers.

By next year, Whitehall intelligence believes, there could be some revealing pointers. Will the Soviet Union relax a little after its recent surge to improve its intercontinental ballistic missiles and decide to devote more of its resources to consumption and preparing for its threatened energy gap? Or will it react to a quickening of military procurement in the United States under the Reagan Administration by launching another upward spiral in its weapons technology?

Finally, does British intelligence believe war with the Soviet Union is likely in the next decade? The answer is "no", provided Nato keeps up its nuclear shield, no doubts occur about the United States commitment to Western Europe and there is no break-up of the alliance.

In the meantime, Russia will, Whitehall reckons, continue to try to tilt the strategic balance in its favour in the disposition of military, economic, political and technical forces by all means short of war.

## Challenge on smoking by Dr Owen

Dr David Owen yesterday accused successive governments of having cravenly refused to challenge two powerful commercial interests, the tobacco and alcoholic drinks industries. He called for a scientifically based strategy to reduce drastically cigarette smoking and excessive drinking.

Dr Owen, Social Democrat MP for Plymouth, Devonport, delivering the Lord Cohen Lecture to the Royal Society of Health's annual congress in London, said: "It might be felt to be foolhardy for a Social Democrat so early to challenge two potential sources of industrial funding for a new political party; so be it."

"Smoking causes lung cancer, chronic bronchitis and coronary artery disease, which now have an incidence of epidemic proportions. About 500,000 people in England and Wales have a serious problem with alcoholic drink, and in Scotland the situation is proportionately much worse."

"Smoking and drinking to excess do not affect only the individual; they affect many who suffer discomfort from cigarette smoke or from drunken behaviour; they affect the families of those who die and the state, now having to provide health services and widows' pensions."

He recalled that in 1975, when he was Minister for Health, the Labour government agreed to consider using the Medicines Act to combat the promotion and sale of tobacco.

He said that under the provisions of the A. Mr Michael Robinson, Under-Secretary of State at the Welsh Office, said yesterday. He was opening the 15.6m Dolgellau by-pass.

**Climber killed**  
A man climbing with a party died yesterday after falling 40ft from Raven Crag, Borrowdale, in the Lake District. His body was found in a ravine.

## In brief

**£70,000 damages for cyclist**  
Mr Trevor Budgen, an amateur cycling champion, who had to give up the sport after losing his right leg in an accident, was awarded £70,000 agreed damages in the High Court in London yesterday.

Mr Budgen, aged 33, of Birch Close, Crawley Down, West Sussex, was riding to a race when a car ran into him. The damages were awarded, by consent, against Mr Clive John Bingham, of Landseer Road, Brighton, the driver, who denied liability.

**Priest fined for theft**  
Father Morris Naudi, aged 66, a Roman Catholic priest, of St Anselm and St Celia's Church, High Holborn, who admitted stealing an umbrella and a scarf valued at £10.65 from the Army & Navy Stores, Victoria, London, was fined £10 by magistrates at Horseferry Road court yesterday.

**Sir Peter Hayman**  
Sir Peter Hayman and Lady Hayman arrived home at Checkendon, Oxfordshire, yesterday. They left for France when he was named in the House of Commons as the former diplomat who had been interviewed by police officers investigating child pornography activities.

**£400m road pledge**  
Work on the £400m scheme to create a dual carriageway between Chester and Bangor will go ahead despite reports to the contrary. Mr Michael Robinson, Under-Secretary of State at the Welsh Office, said yesterday. He was opening the 15.6m Dolgellau by-pass.

**Viaduct repairs**  
British Rail is spending £500,000 on renewing the 30 worst affected piles in the Barmouth viaduct, in Gwynedd, which is being attacked by marine boring creatures. It will ask the Welsh Office and the Department of Transport for the remaining £1.2m needed.

**Sex shop sentence**  
Alfred Hunter, a sex shop owner, aged 39, of Queens Park Road, Exeter, was freed on bail pending an appeal, by magistrates at Exeter yesterday after he was fined £1,000 and jailed for three months for possessing obscene articles for sale.

**Runaway bear shot**  
One of four brown bears which escaped on Sunday from the Loch Lomond wildlife park was shot for "safety reasons" yesterday. Two were caught and one was found back in its enclosure, fast asleep.

**Workman's fatal fall**  
Mr Anthony Nightingale, of Barnham, West Sussex, died in hospital yesterday after falling 25 feet from scaffolding while carrying out alterations to the Oxford Museum of Modern Art.

**Marina fire**  
Five motor cruisers were seriously damaged in a fire at Quayside Marina, Poole, Dorset. The general manager said he suspected arson.

**Joblessness 'increasing heart disease'**  
Sir John Brotherton, former Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, who recently retired from the chair of community medicine at Edinburgh University, said that stress was a significant factor as unemployment spread.

People also tended to smoke more, and under domestic financial uncertainty they smoked their cigarettes to the bitter end, inhaling more of the damaging tars.

"Government economic policy which leads to mass long-term unemployment, such as that from which Scotland is suffering, is killing people and causing serious psychosomatic

## Surgeon fantasy by clerk

From Our Correspondent

Leamington Spa  
A young hospital clerk's fantasy to become a surgeon led him to steal more than £3,000 of medical equipment to set up an operating theatre in an attic.

Magistrates at Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, yesterday placed Stewart Wilkinson, aged 17, of Armsloze, Stratford-on-Avon, on probation for two

years. He had admitted stealing scalpels, oxygen cylinders, trolleys, chemicals and hundreds of surgical instruments. Mr Wilkinson, who was ordered to pay £125 costs, had told the court that he had built the attic surgery at a girl friend's home and used it to carry out experiments on animals.

The magistrates recommended that he should continue to receive medical treat-

## 500 in steelworks protest

From a Staff Reporter

Leeds  
About 500 steelworkers from the private sector company, Hadfields, Sheffield, are to meet Labour MPs at the House of Commons today to discuss the plant's future.

Mr Michael Adams, works convenor, said last night that the men were satisfied that Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the British Steel Corporation,

intended to close Hadfields with the loss of 2,500 jobs once the company agreed to merge with the BSC in what has become known as Phoenix II, a plan by the BSC and the Department of Industry to restructure the steel industry in Britain.

The men, travelling in 10 coaches, will attempt this afternoon to lobby Conservative MPs to ask if it is Government policy to sanction the closure of private steelworks.

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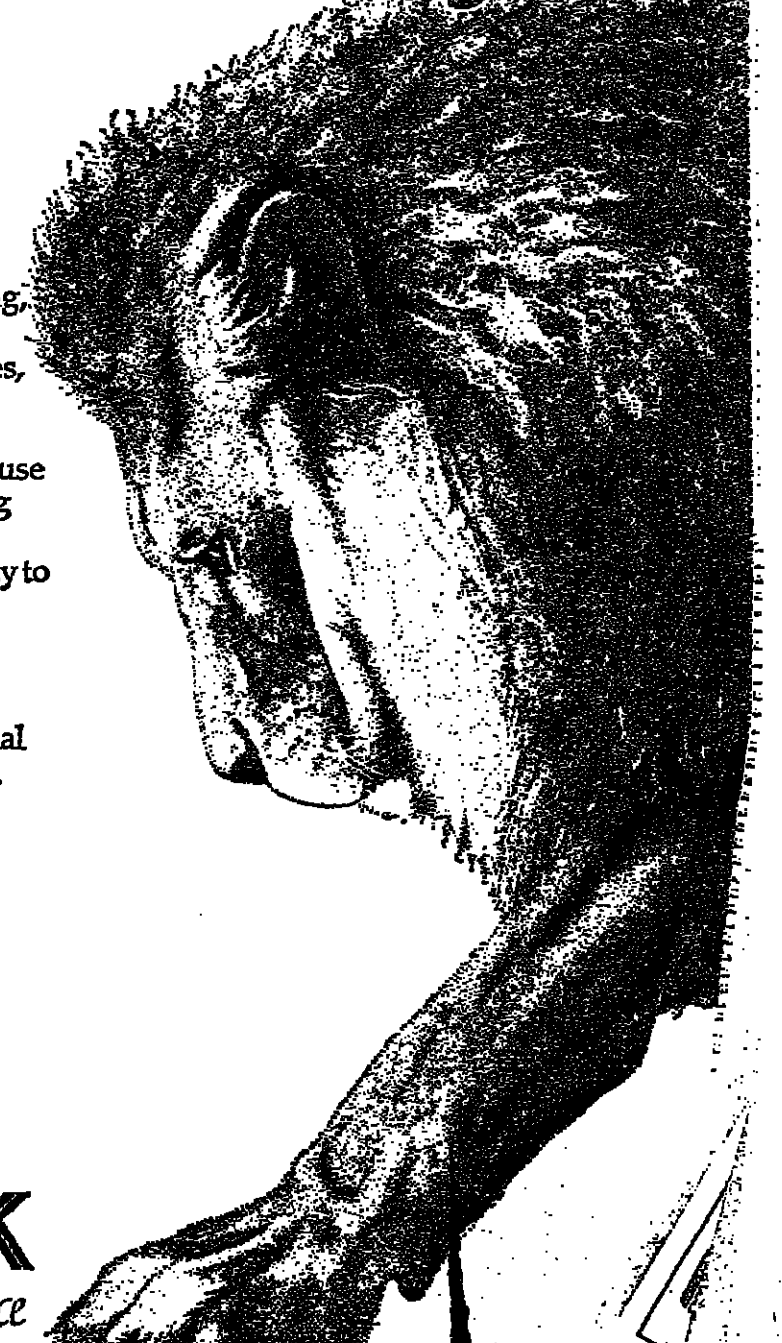
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## Fears of renewed violence at Easter 'solidarity' rally

By David Nicholson Lord

Fears grew yesterday of a renewed confrontation with police next weekend when black leaders plan to organize a mass "solidarity" rally involving representatives from 25 towns and cities.

The rally is to be held on Easter Sunday in a community centre near Brixton police station. Mr Rudy Narayan, co-convenor of the newly formed Brixton Defence Committee which is organizing it, denied that this could lead to fresh violence.

Mr Narayan, a prominent black barrister, said the black communities of Brixton were determined to launch a massive defence campaign for those arrested, both political and in the courts. He spoke of black people "perhaps for the first time facing the crisis with us."

He added: "We believe the time has come for the black community to act as one. We are not going to break the law. We are going to act peacefully and lawfully. The rest is up to the police."

In the aftermath of the disturbances many community leaders were strongly critical of police tactics at the weekend and bitter that past warnings about growing tension in Brixton had been ignored.



Mr Rudy Narayan: "A crisis with racism."

The Rev Robert Nind, Vicar of St Matthew's, Brixton, for 12 years described some young police officers' attitudes towards blacks as "mind-blowing". He accused the police of setting up an arena for confrontation in the Brixton area and destroying the prospect of normality by cutting off the area from the outside world.

Mr Nind said that at 2.30 pm on Sunday he and the Right Rev Ronald Bawly, Bishop of Southwark, had asked the police to withdraw their main strength as there was no longer any threat to law and order. "They just drew up their shoulders and said 'We never withdraw'."

The charge of outside influence in the violence made by Sir David McNea, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, was also fiercely denied although one community worker acknowledged the pull of increasing militancy among local blacks.

Mr Ivan Madray, a senior youth club worker at the Raiton community centre, said: "Sir David has brought in policemen from outside the community who do not know a damn thing about the area or about the feelings of the people in it. That is the only outside influence that matters."

Mr Madray, whose youth club

is surrounded by the charred ruins of buildings at the lower end of Raiton Road, scene of Saturday's riots, said there are many people from both political extremes living in the area.

He said: "They are people who are ready for battle. They are here because they know there are helpless youths here whom they can easily spur on. They are giving the kids the message to stand up for their rights and to fight for their rights. They say you have to wage a war, some say a political war. When you have a group of disillusioned and depressed people anyone can come in and offer them sweets. Hungry people take sweets. These are the things we are fighting against."

Much of the radicalism is associated with the offices of *Race Today* magazine, on a side street off Raiton Road. Mr Dariusz Howe, the editor, was not available for comment yesterday.

Many left wing groups, including the Revolutionary Communist Tendency and the Labour Party Young Socialists, moved into Brixton yesterday to announce press conference or publicized campaigns. They were dismissed contemptuously by local blacks. Copies of the newspaper *Militant*, organ of the Trotskyite Militant Tendency, were lying about in the offices of the Brixton Defence Committee—brought in by "freaks", according to one scornful member of the committee.

Many complaints about police behaviour have been made to the defence committee. They have been accused of deliberately creating confrontation and seeking violence.

Mr Narayan said: "Police committed enough crimes on Sunday night to lock up 100 policemen on riot charges themselves."

"We totally reject Sir David McNea's fabrication that outsiders came to Brixton. The only outsiders were McNea's stormtroopers, the Special Patrol Group, some armed with dogs, who came to attack and terrorize our community."

One injured youth, Ricky Lawrence, aged 17, of Brixton, was alleged to have been with a group of about 100 youths caught between two lines of police in a narrow alleyway. He was taken to hospital with head and arm injuries.

Mrs Patricia Poole, a white housewife, of Coldharbour Lane, said Ricky had gone with her son and other friends as on-lookers to the town centre on Sunday evening.

They found themselves in a group of youths, black and white, who were herded into a narrow alley with mounted police at one end and officers carrying batons at the other. The lights in the alley went off—the youths were told to lie down on their faces.

Mrs Poole said her son, who was 13 and very skinny, had bumps on his head from being hit by a dustbin lid and had his coat ripped off. "He said they kicked him so hard his legs were lifted off the floor," Ricky Lawrence had 14 stitches in his head, but had been taken from Kings College Hospital where she had seen and talked to him, to Brixton Police Station.

Wayne Sanson, aged 17, of Camberwell was with them. He said police started "laying into everyone with dustbin lids, truncheons, and torches."



Photograph by Bill Warnum

## 'It would have ended quickly if the Bill had gone away'

By John Witherow

Andrea Thomas and Simone Norman (above) are young, black, restless and typical of the hundreds of people who set Brixton ablaze over the weekend. They are also adamant that the black community was not to blame for the trouble.

The tension got bad but it would have ended if the Bill (the police) had gone away. If the police were not around there would be nothing to riot against. We don't want violence and violence is pushed upon us."

Perched on a front wall in a street close to Raiton Road, now a scene of desolation

after Saturday night's rioting, they recounted stories of how they had been insulted by the police. They said they had been taunted about being poor, about their colour and appearance and police had shouted comments at them such as "Thank God I'm homosexual".

Despite being aged only fourteen and sixteen, both had left home because they wanted to be more independent and now live in a hostel for the homeless in Brixton. They were born in the South London district and apart from a brief spell in neighbouring Clapham have lived all their lives there.

Their thinking shows signs of confusion and anger: "People want to destroy the shops to show them we love Brixton so much". The riot was also nothing to do with racism, they said. There were black and white people involved in the fighting and most of the anger was simply directed against the police.

Their talk though is full of warnings for the future: "All we want is to be treated as equals. We've had enough of the police. All we know", Andrea said, "is that there's going to be another time and it's going to be worse."

## Brixton starts to count the cost

By David Nicholson-Lord, Sarah Segre, Nicholas Timmins, and John Witherow.

Britain's first opportunity to count the cost of the riots, in terms of injuries, wrecked buildings and disrupted public services came yesterday.

It was the day of the dustcart and the demolition cranes as shopkeepers and residents got back to work—and worried about who was to pay the bill. Some of the insurance assessors touring the area estimated the cost of the damage as £2m or more, and as the local Chamber of Commerce said it would be having an urgent meeting with Mr Ted Knight, leader of Lambeth Borough Council, about compensation.

Mr Leonard Winchester, secretary of Lambeth Chamber of Commerce, with about 250 members, many of whom were smaller shopkeepers in the Brixton area, said he feared many would leave.

"The pressing question is of insurance cover," he said. "Many insurers have different exclusion clauses, covering riots and civil disorder." He understood that the police might pay for compensation if it was accepted that the damage was due to riot. "We need clear guidelines on that," he added.

"It's disastrous. After the huge rate increases of the past three years, the supplementary rate of 37.5 per cent and the rioting, who on earth in their right minds would want to stay in Brixton?"

"They [the small shopkeepers] are all examining their leases to see how many months or years they have got to run."

With thousands of pounds of stock gone, he said: "Six years we have spent building up this business, and it's all gone in one evening."

Thousands of pounds on community relations, and look what it's done for us. They, he said, would not be paying their rates."

At the Dolcis shoe shop, Mr William Williams, the manager, said hundreds of pounds worth of stock and his window had gone. He pointed to a collecting box for the blind that had contained perhaps £50. "They smashed that open and threw it outside. You would think they would leave that."

In Electric Avenue, the centre of Brixton's street market of 35 shops, only half a dozen escaped damage and looting.

Mr Piers O'Connor, who lives above a ransacked jeweller's shop, said the shop's owner, who was aged 60, was cut about the head and showed as he tried to defend his stock.

"They came in waves," he said. There were mothers and children among them. Occasionally a car would pull up and shovel two or three televisions in the back and push off again, the police were just ineffective."

A small army of council workers towed away wrecked cars and vans and cleared tons of rubble, twisted railings, and broken glass from the streets, many shops stayed shut and the only good business was done by the scores of plate-glass windows firms replacing many thousands of pounds worth of smashed windows in almost a hundred shops.

Some of the bigger stores took a more sanguine view than Mr Winchester. Mr Richard Manoff of Woolworth's said: "Of course we are going to stay."

As the store—subject to two arson attacks, heavy looting and a fire—opened on business, he said: "We have had a bit of turbulence by several hundred criminals but certainly we are going to stay."

The announcement by Mr Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, that the compensation for the damage done would be paid under the Riot Damages Act, 1886, did not mean that the Metropolitan Police are admitting liability for the riot, the Home Office said.

The Act allows for claims for damage to houses, shops, or buildings, or property in the going to stay."

The disturbance was not racial, he said. "It is thuggery that caused this. It is attributable to the same thuggery we had in Bristol. A fortnight ago that happened, and here we are again."

For many of the smaller shops the destruction is something they may not be able to ride. At least three small jewellers, as well as two chain jewellers, were ransacked, and in one instance the shop was destroyed after a petrol bomb attack.

Mr Desmond Gunn, who with his brother runs a jewelry and camera shop at the entrance to Ramblers' Arcade, off the main road, said: "We are ruined unless the insurance companies pay up."

In Raiton Road, by the scene of the worst confrontations with the police, Dr Mohammed Khan, who has practised there for five years, said he intended to leave. With all his surgery windows smashed and everything turned upside down, he said: "It is just a question of finding a place."

A surveyor for Watneys, examining the burnt out remains of the George public house, said of the Saturday night trouble: "The staff were threatened with knives."

They beat up the tenant's wife and actually poured petrol on the tenant and tried to set fire to him. They threatened to cut off his wife's fingers unless she gave up her rines."

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## National Front man among whites and blacks fined and bailed

By Staff Reporters

As several buildings in Brixton still smouldered yesterday, the courts opened hearings against people accused of a variety of offences arising from the riots.

At Horseferry Road, Leslie Roberts, a swimming instructor, who says he is a member of the National Front, was among seven whites and 14 coloured appearing in court.

Roberts, who was fined £40 for swearing at police, blamed the police for the troubles and claimed the youths who went on the rampage sought "revenge" for the death on Saturday of a young black who was stabbed in Raiton Road on Friday. (In fact, Scotland Yard said yesterday that the man, Mr Michael Bailey, was in St Thomas' Hospital and was likely to be discharged shortly.)

Another white, Nicholas Ouis, a 23-year-old butcher of Portland Street, Walworth, was fined the maximum of £50 after admitting threatening behaviour. He was said to have thrown stones at the police after going to his employer's shop in Brixton Hill after the premises had been looted.

A third white, Richard Pearce, aged 48, of no fixed address, was remanded in custody accused of assaulting police.

Eighteen other men and women were remanded on bail, variously charged with assault, on police, threatening behaviour, possession of offensive weapons and other offences. They were fined £200 and £250 respectively and bound over.

Mr Kenneth Harrington, the magistrate, banned some of the defendants from Raiton Road as a condition of bail, and bound over others to keep the peace. All but three of the 25 defendants in Brixton or the surrounding areas.

Those banned from Raiton Road were: John Fredericks, aged 21, a carpenter, of Gordon House, Battersea, accused of theft and assaulting police; Andrew Cairns, aged 26, a black white, of Barnwell Road, accused of stealing; Ronald Pilgrim, aged 23, a salesman, of Regina Road, South Norwood, using insulting words and behaviour; Norris White, aged 44, an employed, of St Agnes Place, Kennington, accused of having an offensive weapon, and Donald Favey, aged 29, a record promoter, of Melbourne Grove, East Dulwich, accused of using threatening words and throwing a missile.

The five, together with Owen Westcar, aged 22, a youth worker, of Mayall Road, Herne Hill, who is accused of assaulting police and having an offensive weapon, were also ordered to live at their own addresses.

Paul Reynolds, aged 31 and unemployed, of Mayall Road, Brixton, was given unconditional bail. He is accused of trespass with intent to steal.

Nigel Button, white, aged 26 and unemployed, of Lapham Street, Brixton and Michael Spence, aged 22, a fitter of Lancaster Gardens, Fulham, were given unconditional bail. They are accused of having a brick as an offensive weapon.

O'Neill Crooks, aged 17, a labourer, of Leander Road, Brixton, accused of using threatening behaviour, throwing stones, stealing a police jacket and assaulting a policeman, was granted bail and bound over to keep the peace.

A white woman, Bruna Balfant, aged 13, housing adviser, of Bucklefield Avenue,

Morden, Surrey, was accused of threatening behaviour and having an offensive weapon. She was given unconditional bail, as was Michael Carty, aged 20, painter, of Tackford Road, Stockwell. He is accused of having an offensive weapon and assaulting police.

Tyrone Kum, aged 18, a clerk, and Montague Walters, aged 17, a printer's apprentice, both of Margon House, Overton Road, Stockwell, were both accused of assaulting police. They were granted bail and bound over to keep the peace.

Also granted bail were: Cuthbert Louis, aged 17 and unemployed, of Clapham North, accused of threatening behaviour; Maxine Barnett, aged 13 and unemployed, of no fixed address, accused of theft; Tony Davis, aged 19 and unemployed, of Overton Road, accused of theft and Linford Michael, aged 23, a motor mechanic of Long Lane, Southwark, accused of entering with intent to steal.

Forty-six people appeared before Camberwell Magistrates on similar charges—including having a car as a weapon. Most were from Brixton and South London, and nearly all were remanded on bail.

Further nine people were brought before South Western Magistrates. Two were dealt with, four remanded on bail and three remanded in custody—one a girl of 12 who had to be held by a policeman when she tried to leap from the dock.

The two dealt with, an unemployed white man, aged 21, and an 18-year-old black secretary, each admitted using threatening words and behaviour. They were fined £200 and £250 respectively and bound over.

He was William Cawston of Brixton. Det Sergeant Ben Bailey said Cawston was among a group of 150 youths in Raiton Road and was seen throwing bricks at police cordons.

Cawston denied hurling bricks. He said they were only small stones. Det Sergeant Bailey said: "Over the two-day period some 200 police officers have been injured, some seriously. Twelve are still in hospital and some are resting at home. Many injuries have been caused by missiles that hit them on the head."

Miss Dawn Freedman, the magistrate, passing sentence said: "Each person who was involved in this appalling incident played their part, and without each person no doubt the incident might not have been as serious as it was."

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مكتبة الركن







## Dr Soares retains control of Socialists

Lisbon, April 13.—The Portuguese Socialist Party, led by Dr. Soares, tonight claimed a narrow victory in retaining control of the country's largest opposition force.

The former prime minister called a news conference after partial results of election for a party congress next month indicated he would have the support of more than 70 per cent of the delegates.

His opponents had promised leaving him as party secretary-general because of his prestige inside and outside the country. But they blamed him for losing two general elections and wanted to strip him of most of his power.

Dr Soares said his victory meant there would be a clarification of party policy which would exclude cooperation with the pro-Moscow Portuguese Communist Party.

He said the party's main aim would be to recapture moderate voters lost to the right over the past five years.

The Communist Party had openly supported the opponents of Dr Soares, who included more than half the 66 Socialist Members of Parliament.

The outcome of the power struggle within the Socialist Party is of vital importance for the ruling Democratic Alliance.

The Socialist Democratic Party of Senator Francisco Pinto Balsemão, the Prime Minister, has indicated that it would like to run joint lists with the Socialists in next year's local elections.—Reuter.

## Col Gaddafi proposes Mauritania merger with Sahara Republic

Paris, April 13.—Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, proposed today that Mauritania should merge with the republic proclaimed in the contested Western Sahara by the Polisario Front guerrillas, according to a radio message received here.

He made the proposal to Mr. Sidi Ahmed Ould Bneiara, the Mauritania Prime Minister, who ended a three-day visit to Libya today. Also at the meeting was Mr. Muhammad Abdelaziz, Secretary General of Polisario.

The radio said Colonel Gaddafi, who has troops in Chad and has been accused of wanting to lead a giant invasion of Mauritania, had called for a "proclamation of union between Mauritania and the Sahara Republic."

The Polisario is fighting against Morocco to set up a Saharan Arab Democratic Republic in the Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony annexed by Morocco and Mauritania when Spain pulled out in 1975.

But after a military coup in its capital in 1978, Mauritania made peace with the Polisario in 1979 and withdrew from its portion of the territory, which Morocco then occupied as well.

The radio quoted Mr. Ould Bneiara as saying on leaving Tripoli that Colonel Gaddafi had promised him support to confront "the plots woven by the Moroccan regime." But he did not comment on the merger proposal.

Colonel Gaddafi had also suggested the formation of a pact with Libya, Algeria, Mauritania and the Sahara Republic as members, the radio added. But the nature of this pact was not made clear. The colonel made his proposal in the name of the Steadfastness Front—other members are

Algeria, Syria, South Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organization—of which Tripoli is at present chairman.

Also at the Tripoli meeting were Mr. Walid Jumblatt, leader of the Lebanese National Movement, a coalition of leftist organizations, and Mr. Ahmad al-Faraj, Secretary General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command, one of the hard-line Palestinian guerrilla groups.

The Libyan leader invited Mr. Jumblatt's movement, Mauritania and the Saharan Republic to join the Steadfastness Front, the Libyan radio added. It also called for the "expulsion" of the Sudanese regime from the Arab League and the Islamic Conference Organization for having "recognized" the Egyptian regime and thus the "Zionist conspiracy."

Colonel Gaddafi's 12-year rule in Libya has been marked by several attempts at political unity with other Arab and African states, including Syria and Chad in the past year. None of the attempts has thus far borne fruit.

Mission to Morocco: The two leading officials of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) arrived here today for talks with King Hassan II on the Western Sahara conflict.

President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone, the OAU chairman, and the organization's secretary-general, Mr. Edem Kodjo, are to present the King with the official recommendations made last September by the OAU special committee on the Western Sahara.

These called for a ceasefire in the conflict by December 1980, which did not take place—and OAU United Nations referendum allowed the Saharan people to decide their future.—Agence France-Press.



John Young (left) talks to Vice-President Bush from the shuttle. He told him: "The spaceship is performing beautifully."

## Tiniest of space shuttle defects will be spotted

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

A new network of optical tracking stations for taking photographs of spacecraft being introduced by the United States Department of Defense is being used to examine the heat shield on the belly of the Columbia space shuttle.

These instruments, operated by the North American Air Defence Command (Norad), can see objects smaller than square inches in orbit which are further from earth than the shuttle's.

Provided the clouds, which hampered photography earlier yesterday, clear away this equipment has the capability for seeing any gap in the mosaic of special six-inch square tiles forming the heat shield on Columbia. An elaborate web of radar and optical stations will carry out surveillance. It includes a number of

installations which each have two 40-inch cassegrain (reflecting) telescopes and a 15-inch instrument.

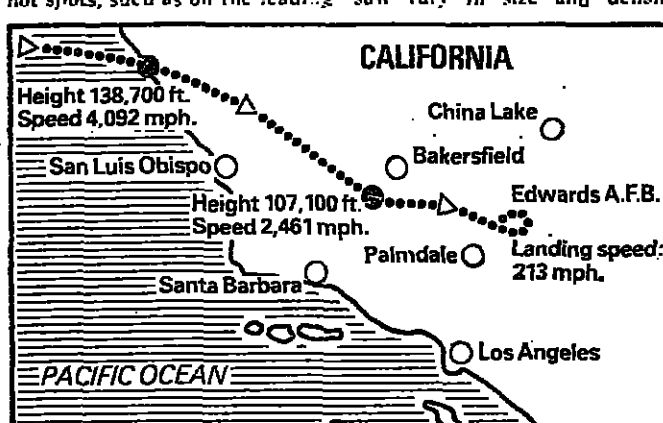
The heat shield of the shuttle has caused severe difficulties and it has been one of the major causes of the three-year delay in getting the vehicle into orbit. The special ceramic material used for the shield is made from a high purity silica glass that is processed to create a light substance resembling gyrfalcon. Any of the tiles can be heated to a bright red on one surface while remaining cold on the opposite side.

Unlike the thermal protection plate on the previous pear-shaped manned space capsules which burn away as the craft re-entered the atmosphere, the heat shield on the shuttle must stay intact for reuse. Yet some parts of the Columbia, particularly the belly and nose, may be exposed to temperatures of

up to 1600 degrees centigrade generated by friction on re-entering the atmosphere at 16,820 miles per hour.

The portions on which extra stress is expected from such hot spots, such as on the leading

edge of the wing, are reinforced with a strong form of carbon. Each of the 35,000 tiles is specially designed for its position on the orbiter and the components of this unusual mosaic vary in size and density.



The Nasa plan for Columbia's landing in California today.

## Albanian rebuff enrages Belgrade

From Dossa Trevisan

Belgrade, April 13

Relations between Yugoslavia and Albania which have been improving steadily for a number of years are now being tested following the nationalist riots in the predominantly Albanian Kosovo autonomous region of Yugoslavia.

In an officially-inspired comment in the Albanian Communist Party newspaper the Government in Tirana explicitly supported the demands of the demonstrators for the region's transformation into a fully-fledged republic.

The Yugoslavs considered this amounted to a blatant interference in their internal affairs and, in the view of a high-ranking Albanian official of the region, it was a call to muddy, and an invitation to hegemonistic forces to meddle in Yugoslav affairs.

The Albanian newspaper comment, which is clearly expressing the views of the Albanian leader, Mr. Enver Hoxha and has

the weight of an official government statement, described the demonstrators' demands for a change in the status of the region as "legitimate".

It added that the ethnic Albanians, who number two million in Yugoslavia, have never been allowed to express themselves freely and therefore have the right to "free themselves from the tutelage of Serbia and to be granted the status of one of Yugoslavia's constituent republics."

The Albanian paper accused the Yugoslav authorities of attacking the demonstrators with tanks. It said the Yugoslav army had used "extreme brutality".

The attack from Tirana has provoked serious anger here where nationalists had emphasized earlier their belief that the Albanian government was not doing enough to suppress the demonstrators.

Last week Mr. Stane Dolanc, a member of the Praesidium, went out of his way to quote earlier statements from Tirana to the effect that Yugoslavia's

independence and territorial integrity were in the interests of Albania.

For a number of years and as recently as a year ago Mr. Hoxha has repeatedly urged Albania's readiness to "fight together" with Yugoslavia against anyone who might endanger Yugoslavia's independence.

Mr. Dolanc recalled this to emphasize the two countries' readiness to stand by any threat to Yugoslavia including the riots in Kosovo, would be damaging to Albania.

Schools reopen: Yugoslav officials said yesterday that schools in Kosovo had reopened today after being closed since the disturbances. High school and university classes were expected to resume later. Many of the rioters were said to have been members of the National Front (NF) party (AP reports from Belgrade).

Last week, authorities lifted a nighttime curfew but a ban on public gatherings is still in force.

## Italian fascist law used in pilot dispute

From John Earle

Rome, April 13

Signor Salvatore Formica, the Minister of Transport, and a Socialist, today invoked a Fascist law of 1934 to order 300 Alitalia pilots not to join a week-long Easter strike starting tomorrow. This should enable the national airline to maintain between 40 and 50 per cent of its fleet.

Captain Adalberto Pellegrini, president of ANPAC, the Pilots' Association, recommended members to comply with the order, but said the association would seek a court injunction declaring the minister's order void.

## President Reagan stays out of public eye

Washington, April 13.—President Ronald Reagan, out of the hospital, but unable to work in the Oval Office yet, is staying upstairs in the White House with no immediate plans for public appearances while he builds up his strength. Today he met his three chief assistants and received a written national security briefing, Mr. Larry Speakes, the deputy White House press secretary, said.

He also had separate meetings with Mr. Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, and Mr. Casper Weinberger, Defence Secretary, to hear reports on their recent overseas trips. Both meetings took place in the living quarters on the second floor.

Mr. Speakes said the President was not likely to make a radio speech on his economic proposals this week but might do so later. As he recuperates at home from the bullet wound in his left lung Mr. Reagan also may telephone members of Congress for a progress report on how his economic plan is faring.

Dr. Daniel Ruge, the President's personal physician, said Mr. Reagan was "up and about" this morning "and he is doing extremely well". He added: "He has been reading a lot and resting."—AP and UPI.

## Briton loses all her money in Miami robbery

Miami, April 13.—A 76-year-old British woman who had saved for years for a Florida holiday was knocked down and robbed of \$1,636 (about £740) last night two hours after arriving from England.

As Mrs. Clara Roberts and her daughter, Sheila Ann Boyd, left their hotel life two young knuckledown Mrs. Roberts and escaped with her purse, which contained her money and a prescription for her heart condition. She was not injured.

On April 4 a family from Cornwall was terrorized and robbed in Miami.—UPI.

## Cholera kills 14

Jakarta, April 13.—Fourteen people were reported dead and about 100 others were in hospital after a cholera outbreak in Bandung, western Java, the Antara news agency said.

## Ministers meet to avert Canadian energy war

From John Best

Ottawa, April 13

Federal and Alberta cabinet ministers met in Winnipeg today in an attempt to stop an energy war developing.

The meeting between Mr. Marc Lalonde, the Canadian Energy Minister, and Mr. Merv Leitch, his Alberta counterpart, represents the first major effort at negotiations since Alberta began cutting its oil production six weeks ago.

That action resulted from the Federal Government's national energy programme (NEP), announced last autumn, which imposed substantial federal taxes on the oil and gas industry. About 85 per cent of all Canada's oil and gas comes from Alberta.

The programme not only imposed new taxes, boosting the federal share of revenues from the industry, but also failed to give Alberta what the province felt entitled to in the way of oil price increases.

The present federally-controlled Canadian price is \$17.75 (about £7) a barrel, less than half the world price. Under the energy programme this will rise to \$31 a barrel in 1984 but Alberta maintains that the increase should be greater.

The Federal Government keeps the Canadian price artificially low to give industry a competitive edge in world markets and also to help control inflation.

Alberta feels it is being cheated by the interests of oil-consuming manufacturing plants principally located in Ontario. Its response six weeks ago was to cut oil production by 60,000 barrels a day. Two other 60,000 barrel reductions are scheduled for June 1 and September 1, giving a total reduction of 180,000 barrels a day or about 15 per cent.

Today's meeting on "neutral ground" in Winnipeg, which is in the province of Manitoba, was essentially exploratory aimed at establishing a dialogue and laying the groundwork for a negotiated settlement.

Before going in to the meeting Mr. Lalonde told reporters not to expect any "big news" but said he hoped agreement could be reached at future meetings. Trudeau, the Prime Minister, and Mr. Peter Lougheed, the Alberta Premier.

Today's meeting was scheduled to last one day but could continue longer.

## Grenada accuses US of fixing five-nation boycott

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, April 13

Grenada, the tiny island state in the Caribbean, today stepped up its criticism of alleged American interference in its affairs, accusing Washington of an "unsightly, unseemly and vulgar" attempt "to crush and squeeze" its economic development at birth.

The broadside was delivered by Mr. Bernard Coard, Grenada's Deputy Prime Minister, who is in Brussels for a two-day meeting of donor countries interested in helping to finance the building of a new international airport in Grenada.

The meeting opens tomorrow. Five EEC countries—West Germany, France, Italy, Belgium and Holland—were invited to attend, but they declined to come, arguing that they would be adequately represented by the European Commission.

It is no secret in diplomatic circles that the United States has made known to European governments its wish that they should refrain from giving aid to the airport project. The Americans dislike the left-wing regime in Grenada and its close relations with Cuba. They have suggested that the airport

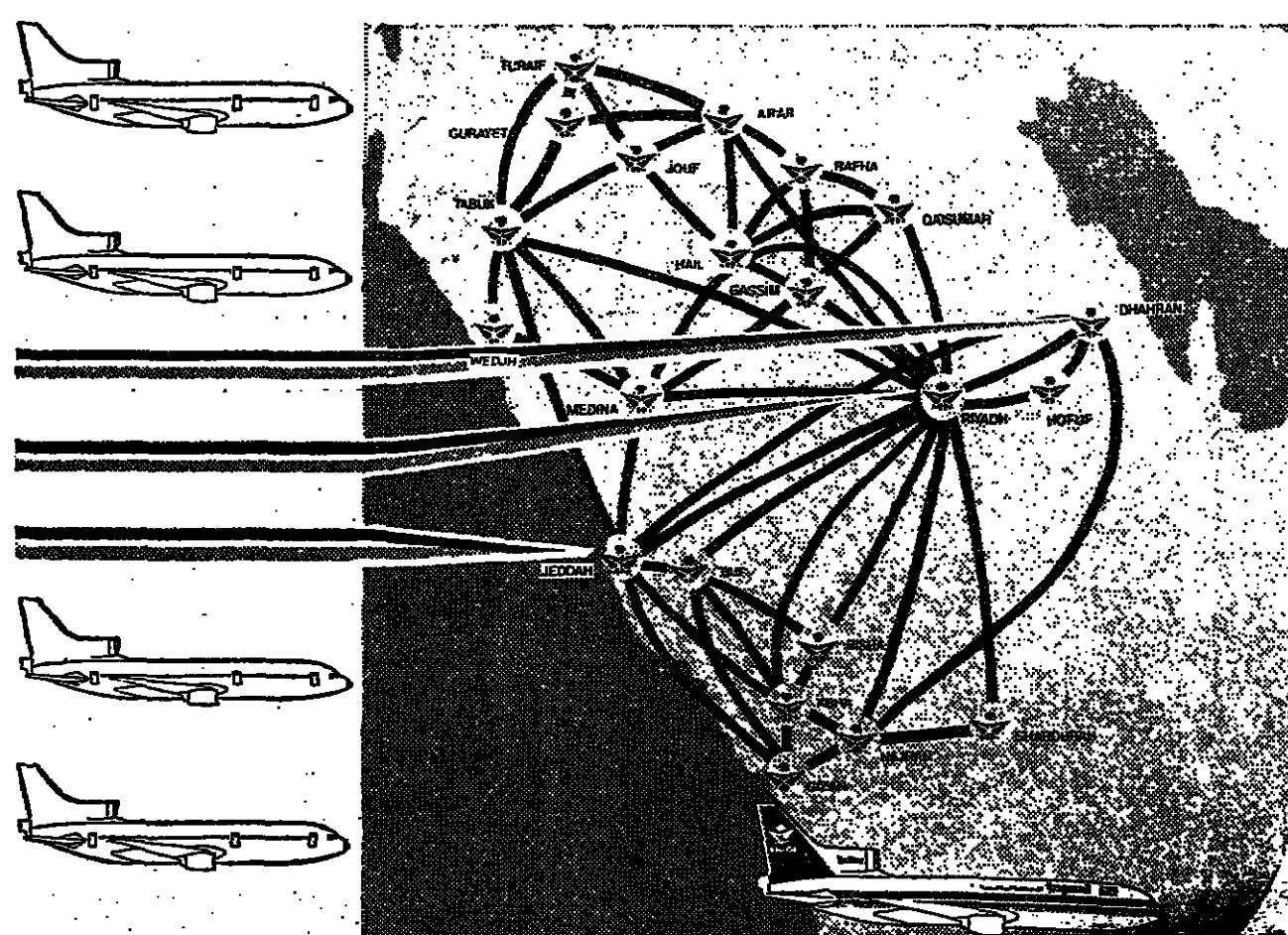
could be used as a refuelling stop for the transport of Cuban troops to Africa.

Mr. Coard told a press conference here that his government was "very disturbed by the very open and very vulgar attempt by the United States" to dissuade EEC countries from providing financial help.

He accused the Americans of "gross interference" in Grenada's internal affairs and its relationship with the EEC, which is governed by the Lome convention. "We believe that their behaviour raises a serious question about whether the EEC countries are going to allow their foreign policy to be dictated by the United States," he declared.

To test, he said, would be the response of EEC member-states to the report they would receive from the European Commission on this week's fund-raising meeting. This will show who determines foreign policy in Europe", he added.

Mr. Coard described the military and security objections to the airport raised by the Americans as "nothing but a load of hogwash". It would not be a military base nor would it be used for military purposes.



## Comoros fall prey to isolation complex

From Marie-Thérèse Delboulbes

Agence France-Press

Moroni, Comoros, April 13

Unloved and unused, ignored by the superpowers that pass on by, an out of the mainstream of the tourist trade of the Indian Ocean, the Comoros are falling prey to an isolation complex.

The balmy scent of the ylang ylang blossom in the evening air, the coconut palms arching languidly over the little creeks, their blue-green water contrasting with the black lava from the mist-wreathed Kartala volcano, make the Comoros a holiday postcard dream.

But this appearance of a soft life on the four islands of Great Comore, Anjouan, Moheli and "rebel" Mayotte, situated at the entrance to the Mozambique channel, is as misleading as that of the dormant volcano, which erupted in 1977.

The Comoros have a troubled image abroad resulting from the "dark period"—the regime of Ali Soleih—and the arrival of mercenaries, who overthrew the regime on May 13, 1978.

"There is a disparity between the way in which we are described abroad and the reality here," Mr. Ali Mrouddjae, the Foreign Minister, said.

Only last month there were rumours abroad of an attempted coup d'etat. The Foreign Minister has denied them. Observers here, while not believing there was a real threat, recognize that the opposition is trying to destabilize the regime of President Ahmed Abdallah.

President Abdallah, the "father of independence" from France on July 6, 1975, was overthrown by Ali Soleih the next month. He was returned to power by mercenaries in May, 1978.

During the intervening years, a revolution upset the archipelago's traditional Islamic society. War was declared on feudal chiefs, power was put in the hands of youth for women, the traditional veil for women was abolished, officials were dismissed and national archives burnt.

Today the traditional leaders still fear the young who have tasted power and forgotten the terrors of the Soleih regime, remember only its positive aspects, according to one foreign national.

In February, subversive tape recordings and leaflets were seized from travellers. A pamphlet, *The Voice of the People*, appears almost monthly.

The opposition, which recruits among the numerous Comorian exiles in Kenya, Tanzania and France, is fragmented and unorganized. There are Marxists and men such as Said Ali Kemal, who resigned in July as Ambassador to France to form a National Council for Public Salvation.

After February's unseemly, notables from Great Comore and Anjouan went to declare their allegiance to President Abdallah, who customarily receives visitors in the afternoon under a mango tree.

Not that the President has anything to fear from his adversaries for the moment. He can count on a 300-strong presidential guard, officered by former mercenaries who have been dubbed "military advisers". The term "mercenary" upsets Comorian leaders who were for a time ostracized by the Organization of African Unity.

"I don't know any African countries which do not have technical assistants to train the army," said Mr. Mrouddjae, who pointed to the Cuban presence and Soviet and East German advisers in Angola or elsewhere.

Twenty-nine "advisers", 20 of them permanent, train and command the presidential

guard. Most of them are new to the islands and did not take part in the 1978 operation. Of the original force, some have fallen in love with the island, which still has a colonial air, and have settled here.

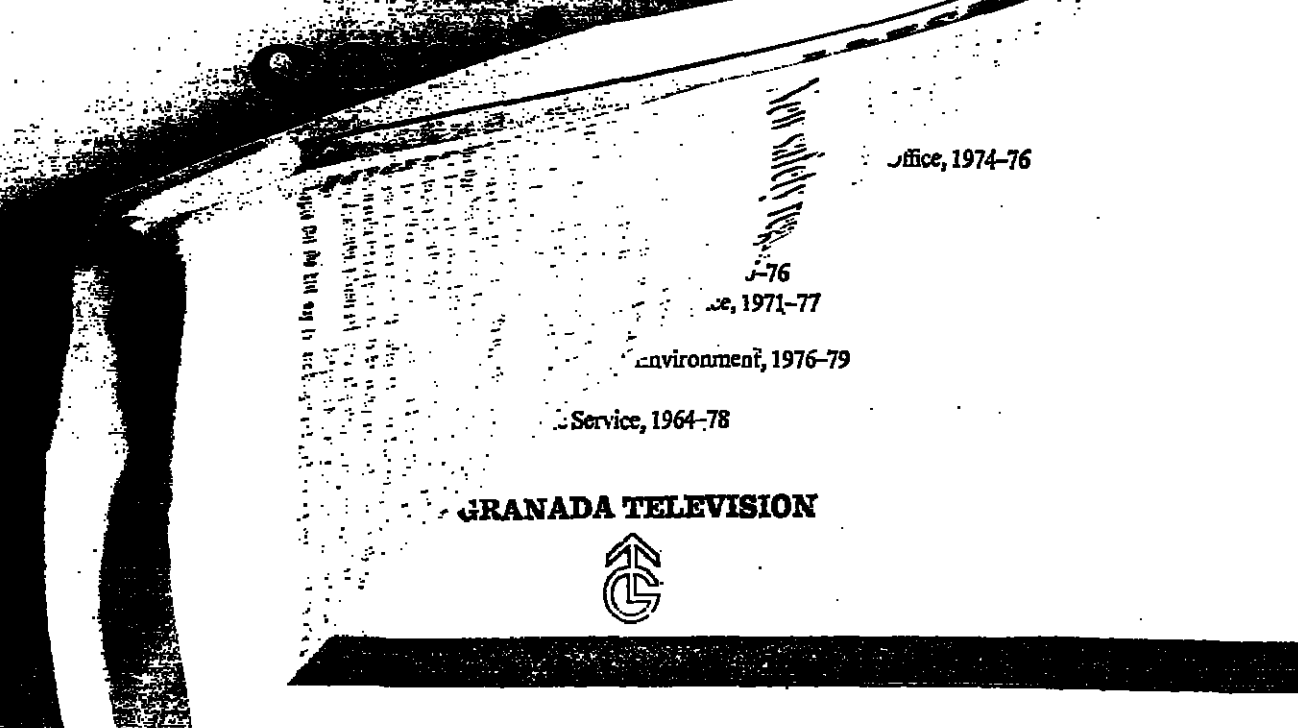
The presidential guard is more feared than the 700-strong French-officered Comorian Army, known as the Black Commandos because of their black uniforms.

But the real problems of the archipelago lie elsewhere: in its political stagnation, in the island of Mayotte which wants to remain French in its development, and in a rising population.

It is not clear how the Mayotte issue, an abiding relations with France, will be resolved. Comoros would like to solve it by negotiation. The French like an end to a state which has embarrassed them at international forums.

The problem, for authorities, is what to do with the 50,000 people who have stayed in France since 1978. How to main aid donor to the island and provides about 100 ment workers, teachers and doctors.

## Where other





## Poland's press warns leaders to begin reforms without delay

Warsaw, April 13.—Polish newspapers urged the Government today to make full use of the hoped-for lull in strikes by showing that it could push through reforms without being driven.

Two leading newspapers, *Trybuna Ludu* and *Zycie Warszawy*, said many Poles believed some of the authorities were dilatory and acted only under coercion.

They said that after the Sejm (Parliament) call on Friday for a two-month strike-free period, the authorities must now prove that this was not the case.

"For some time we have observed the widespread declaration of noble intention coupled with universal paralysis of will," the *Government daily Zycie Warszawy* said.

"The authorities object that society is insufficiently disciplined... but society objects that the authorities are functioning sluggishly and conducting a skirt-the-issue policy," it added.

*Zycie Warszawy* said it was time to do something about Poland's almost catastrophic economy and that the much vaunted economic reform programme had so far failed to go beyond the discussion stage.

The newspaper also indicated that responsibility for the success of the 60-day strike moratorium rested ultimately on the ability of the authorities to act swiftly.

"No administrative barriers, even if sanctioned by the highest legal acts, will guarantee social peace. In this regard there is no substitute for wise decisions, backed by swift and effective action," it said.

"Words alone are not enough."

The Communist Party daily

*Trybuna Ludu* made the same point and said the support that General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister, received from the Sejm was to an extent dependent upon the Government tackling a host of outstanding problems.

The Sejm support was linked to settlement of the problems of economic reform, the demand for a private farmers' union, further democratization of life and the resolution of all disputes through dialogue, *Trybuna Ludu* said.

Wall of distrust: Mr Lech Walesa, leader of the free Solidarity union, echoed these thoughts tonight by calling on the Government to break down a "wall of distrust" and make reforms without being put under pressure. (Reuter reports from Warsaw.)

In an interview on national television, he said Solidarity had so far achieved everything through confrontation. It was time the Government, not his union, took the initiative to prove its commitment to political renewal.

"If the Government gave society some of the things which are socially justified, and even things which Solidarity might demand, then people might regain their confidence in the authorities," he said.

Asked about the call from the Sejm for 60 strike-free days, Mr Walesa said Solidarity desired a strong government. The Government would prove its strength when it came up with solutions before being confronted with demands.

"Why do we have to force the censorship, trade union law, the farmers' union?" he asked in reference to some of his union's demands.—Reuter.

## Moscow suspicious of trends in Warsaw

From Denis Taylor  
Moscow, April 13  
The degree of Soviet concern about pluralist tendencies within the Polish Communist Party is shown with exceptional sharpness in an article published in *Pravda* today. The report quotes allegations by Polish workers of pressure being brought on them by Solidarity, the independent trade union movement.

Western diplomatic sources in Moscow see the item in the Soviet Party newspaper as significant evidence of Russian preoccupation with reformist trends in the ruling Polish United Workers' Party as the party congress approaches in July. One diplomat saw the *Pravda* report as a sign of "shifting the focus away from Solidarity".

Mr Oleg Loson, the *Pravda* correspondent, said he was asked about cooperation with fellow workers in the official trade union branch, he answered: "We do not cooperate and we do not need to cooperate." At the same time, the official branch was striving for cooperation with the work done by the Polish comrades.

It was alleged that when a representative of Solidarity was asked about cooperation with fellow workers in the official trade union branch, he answered: "We do not cooperate and we do not need to cooperate." At the same time, the official branch was striving for cooperation with the work done by the Polish comrades.

Referring to strike alerts, another worker, who had been 22 years at the plant, said there were shortages of basic products in the shops, but he asked if strikes would make things any better. He claimed that Solidarity was putting great psychological pressure on the workers.

*Pravda* said that the Warel communists were unanimously against anything which threatened the unity and solidarity of the Polish Workers' Party and weakened its political force and ideological influence.

Some people in the party would like to use discussions to drag in views alien to a Marxist-Leninist party, hiding their apostasy with a luxuriant bouquet of pseudo-party phrases about ideological pluralism and partnership of different political forces, the newspaper said.

All this only played into the hands of the openly anti-socialist forces waging war on the Polish Workers' Party and its leading role in society. The party had to resist any actions weakening its ranks and resolutely defend socialism.

The *Pravda* article came after remarks by Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet leader, in Prague last week, which referred to the defence of socialism in Poland by Polish communists and true patriots, but which did not mention the current party and government leadership in Warsaw.



Mr Mikhail Suslov, a member of the Soviet Politburo, addresses the East German Communist Party congress in East Berlin.

## Comradely words from French and Italians

Berlin, April 13.—Italian and French Communist Party delegates spoke out strongly today at the East German party congress against outside interference in Poland's affairs.

Signor Giovanni Cervetti, senior official in the Italian and French parties, demanded that the Warsaw leadership be left to solve Poland's difficulties.

Signor Cervetti said Italian Communists took "a favourable view of the present process of renewal in Poland and of the work done by the Polish comrades".

He added: "We want them to be able to solve and overcome the crisis and tensions by political means alone and without outside interference."

The Italian party was committed to the view that "the respect of independence and sovereignty of every state and of every people is an unconditional principle for every progressive force, and also a basic condition for the continuation of détente."

M. Plissonnier, a member of the French Communist Politburo, took a similar line. "The French Communist Party is deeply convinced it is the affair of the Polish party, the Government and the Polish people to solve their problems through the realization of economic, social and democratic reforms," he said.

The French media were bringing almost daily reports of an impending Soviet inter-

vention in Poland but the French party was convinced these were part of an anti-communist propaganda campaign, he added.

The Italian and French delegates were the first speakers at the three-day-old conference to issue implicit warnings against the idea of a Soviet bloc intervention in Poland.

Apart from a Bulgarian official who yesterday expressed confidence in the ability of the Warsaw leadership to solve the crisis, other Soviet bloc spokesmen have made largely non-committal remarks about Poland and have withheld expressions of trust.

The Italian and French parties, the two biggest in Western Europe, both condemned the Soviet bloc inter-

vention in Czechoslovakia in 1968. But the French party has made little comment on the unrest in Poland and the threat of a Soviet military move.

Senior East German communist officials have avoided direct references to Poland in speeches to the congress in the past two days. But Hans Egon Krenz, leader of the East German Communist youth movement, today grouped "anti-communists, revisionists and renegades" as enemies of true socialism.

"Renegades" is a term coined recently by East German ideologists as an allusion to Polish communist officials calling for a renewed political system more open and liberal than orthodox Soviet-style communism.—Reuter.

## Rudolf Hess's son denied visit to father in hospital

Berlin, April 13.—The son of Rudolf Hess was refused permission today to visit his father in the British military hospital where he is being treated for pneumonia. A British spokesman for the four powers that run the Spandau war crimes prison refused to give a reason for the ban.

Herr Wolf Rüdiger Hess, aged 43, a Munich architect, said the Americans, British and French were willing to let him in. It was the Russians who blocked the visit. "The Soviet representative said he would have to get new instructions from Moscow," he said.

He also said that the Russians took the view that Herr Hess is allowed only one visit a month and that his wife, Ilse, has already applied to visit him on April 21, five days

before his eighty-seventh birthday.

The British warden denied that Herr Hess is near to death, the son said. "I replied I had no way of knowing this if I could not see my father". Yesterday, he accused the four powers of concealing the true state of his father's health.

Herr Hess, who was Hitler's deputy, was taken to the hospital last Tuesday from the prison near by where he is serving a life term imposed by the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal in 1946.

Armed British troops guarded the hospital because of apparent concern that neo-Fascists would try to free Herr Hess. Witnesses said they saw six soldiers at the main entrance and about 14 others patrolling the area.—UPI.

## Neo-fascists kill Brescia bomb man in jail yard

Novara, Italy, April 13.—Ermano Buzzi, a neo-Fascist extremist condemned to life in prison for planning a bomb that killed eight people at a left-wing rally in 1974, was strangled in the exercise yard of a maximum security prison today.

Buzzi was convicted of planting a bomb in a street rubbish basket during an anti-Fascist rally in the northern city of Brescia.

Police said Buzzi was killed by two well-known neo-Fascists serving life sentences for the killing of a Rome judge and two policemen, respectively. Buzzi was killed in the exercise yard while it was being used by 11 right-wing extremists. The two men who confessed to the crime told police that Buzzi had been "condemned" and declared themselves "prisoners of war".—UPI.

## Coolness in Pretoria to Reagan envoy

From Our Correspondent  
Johannesburg, April 13  
Dr Chester Crocker, the Reagan Administration's Africa expert, is due to arrive at Waterkloof air base, near Pretoria, tomorrow on the sixth and possibly most vital leg of his 10-nation African shuttle at approximately the same time as the space shuttle Columbia will be making its reentry into the atmosphere.

It is perhaps fortuitous that Columbia will be stealing whatever thunder may attach itself to Dr Crocker's arrival in South Africa to gain support for the Reagan plan for a Namibia settlement.

Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, reacted with distinct coolness today when asked if he would meet Dr Crocker. "I do not know if there are suggestions that I meet him. And even if there were preparations being made for me to meet him I do not think this is the time and place to disclose them," he said at a press conference.

Dr Crocker will certainly meet Mr P. Botha, the Foreign Minister, but the Prime Minister appears more concerned about the April 29 general election than international affairs.

Last week, in apparent reaction to Dr Crocker's remarks in Nairobi that the United States would seek a new relationship with South Africa to lead the country "away from apartheid", the Prime Minister told an election meeting in Cape Town: "We will not allow others to prescribe to us, not today or in the future."

"The only people who will decide that are the South African voters through polls and in the South African Parliament."

The South African authorities have made it clear that they regard his visit as a very low key affair. No arrangements have been made for any press conference or briefings and in fact Mr P. Botha, without success, urged Dr Crocker to

stay away from South Africa until after the April 29 poll. It is clear though that Washington wants the tour to be completed and weighed up before the resumption of the United Nations Security Council debate on Namibia on April 21.

Africans' concern: Dr Crocker acknowledged at the end of his visit to Zimbabwe today that black leaders had expressed "some concern" to him over the new Administration's Southern Africa policy (Stephen Taylor writes from Salisbury). He left for Maputo this afternoon after meeting officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a one-hour session with Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister.

A constant theme in the talks so far, in Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and here, has been the view of black leaders that the White House has adopted a warmer approach to South Africa since President Reagan's election.

## Transkei attempts to control its news

From Ray Kennedy,  
Johannesburg, April 13  
A Bill making it illegal for anyone to publish anything about the Transkei Government without ministerial approval was approved today by the Parliament of South Africa's first independent Bantustan in limiting the capital.

The Criminal Law Amendment Bill, which requires only the signature of Paramount Chief Kaiser Matanzima, the President, and to be gazetted officially to become law, applies also to any news about the activities of a government department or institution.

The Bill will also force people who publish such information to disclose the source of information.

Enforcement of the Bill will be by imprisonment for periods of up to three years or fines of up to 3,000 (£1,700) and in any prosecution it will be presumed that the accused knew the information disclosed concerned the Bill unless the contrary is proved.

Journalists operating in the Transkei have already been subjected to repeated harassment and several have been detained or expelled. South African newspapers circulating in the territory—such as the *East London Daily Dispatch* which was banned for a period—are finding it difficult to attract local journalists of the required calibre to cover Transkei news.

The Bill was introduced by T. T. Lelake, Minister of Justice and a former leading member of the militant Pan Africanist Congress (Pac). He said that previously confidential official information had been leaked to the public and in some cases the information has been distorted or incorrect.

Transkei, with a population of 1,700,000, was granted self-rule by South Africa in October, 1976. Its independence is recognized only by South Africa and the other independent homelands of Bophuthatswana and Venda.

## Tunisian party picks leaders

Tunis, April 13.—A special congress of the ruling Destour Socialist Party yesterday elected a new 30-member Central Committee, in what was seen here as a vote of confidence in the programme of liberalization pursued by Mr Muhammad Mzali, the Prime Minister.

The new committee, from which President Habib Bourguiba will choose a Politburo, includes the members of the Government. Mr Mzali formed a year ago as well as most members of the former Politburo.—Agence France-Presse.

napf

# May 7th, 8th, 9th, Metropole Hotel, Birmingham

## TALKING ABOUT PENSIONS...



THE CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer, Sir Geoffrey Howe, will be the opening speaker at the Conference on Thursday 7th May and will discuss the role played by the pension fund movement in the economy.



THE PARLIAMENTARY Under Secretary of State for Social Security, Mrs Lynda Chalker, will wind up the Conference on Saturday 9th May and will speak on Resources in Later Life.



SIR HAROLD WILSON will be the special lunchtime guest speaker on Friday 8th May and can be expected to follow up the report by his Committee on the Functioning of Financial Institutions published last year.



THE CHAIRMAN of the Occupational Pensions Board, Lord Brimelow, will speak on the Board's report on protection of Occupational Pension Rights and the expectations of those who change employment.

The National Association of Pension Funds' annual conference is wide ranging. Concurrent sessions will include a debate on the question of increases to pensions and deferred pensions in the private sector. There will be a session on pre-retirement counselling. There will be discussion on Member Participation in the running of funds; and a debate on the maintenance of the real value of pensions in retirement. Problems on investment will be considered — with sessions on the current and future role of stockbrokers and on the desirability or otherwise of the issue of index linked bonds. Leaders in the pensions movement — representing all disciplines — will take part in all these discussions. There will be a separate session on the problem of communications by and within the pensions movement led by the Director General. And, during the conference, awards will be made to those pension funds who have been most successful in communicating to their members — the Golden Pen Awards.

For registration and details please write to Heather Webster, National Association of Pension Funds, Sunley House, Bedford Park, Croydon, CR0 0XF. Telephone: 01-681 2017.

مكتبة من الأصل



## Turks seek execution for 97 Kurd separatists

From Sinan Fisek

Ankara, April 13—Prosecutors of the martial law tribunal in Diyarbakir, in south-eastern Turkey, today asked for death sentences against 97 members of the Kurdistan separatist Kurdistan Liberation Party.

Out of 2,331 alleged militants of the group now under arrest, only 447 went on trial today, including three former members of Parliament, a former cabinet member, who face prison sentences for supplying "moral and material support" to the separatists.

In their opening statement, the two prosecutors said that the group, known as Apocu from a familiar abbreviation of the name of its leader, Mr Abdullah Ocalan, had murdered 243 people, including 30 security troops since 1978. They added that 27 members of the group had been killed in clashes with police in their effort to "form armed gangs in order to set up a communist state on lands which they planned to separate forcefully from the sovereignty of the Turkish state".

Minor incidents took place in the court inside the Diyarbakir garrison on this first day of the trial which was taken up with the formality of determining the prisoners' identities.

About 30 of the accused refused to identify themselves in a sign of protest against prison conditions. The judge said they could air their views on the matter at a later stage of the trial, but the men insisted and many were removed from the court.

The 207-page opening statement read in parts like a horror story. It claimed that one militant, acting on orders, killed his own mother and brother because they were against the group's activities.

It also alleged that militants set up "popular tribunals" to try "enemies" and "defectors", torturing them by giving them electric shocks, hanging them up by their feet and mutilating them, slicing off noses and ears, before killing them.

The trial is expected to be a drawn-out affair, with new suits being filed gradually against the remaining 1,884 alleged militants under arrest.

About 1,000 more people are being sought in connection with the group's activities, including Mr Ocalan, who has always directed his followers from abroad, well-informed sources in Ankara reported.

## Communist party expels its founder

From Our Own Correspondent

Delhi, April 13—Mr Shripad Amrit Dange, one of the founders and a former chairman of the Communist Party of India was expelled from the party today.

His expulsion on the unanimous vote of the executive was the inevitable outcome of his publicly expressed contempt for the leadership, his strong criticism of the party line and his support for Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister.

His refusal to stop supporting Mrs Gandhi led to his removal from the party chairmanship last year. His statements and his open identification with a splinter group led by his son, Mr Dange, led to his expulsion from the party.

Mr Dange, who is 81, considers Mrs Gandhi as "a progressive bourgeois, patriotic, anti-imperialist and anti-fascist" and at the same time he has complained that the Communist Party of India "has failed to identify itself with the people's aspirations".

## Pilgrims die in bus crash

Delhi, April 13—A chartered bus carrying Hindu pilgrims crashed and caught fire in Southern India last night, killing 46 people and injuring 19, the press trust of India said today.

The bus travelling to a remote Hindu temple in Andhra Pradesh, crashed through guard rails on a sharp curve, tumbled 20 feet into a ravine and burst into flames.—UPI

## Glider collide

Johannesburg, April 13—A South African glider pilot was killed and another, a young woman, parachuted to safety when their gliders collided above the black township of Soweto, near here yesterday.

## Searching Indian questions for Mrs Thatcher

By Lucy Hodges

When Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, arrives in India today, she is likely to encounter protests about harassment of Asians at Heathrow Airport, virginity testing (now stopped) and the way in which families are kept apart by immigration controls. Relations between Britain and India are at an all-time low point. Indian newspaper coverage of Britain concentrates on reports about racial incidents and the Nationality Bill. Some are hysterical, but they reflect a widespread feeling based on what many people believe to be true.

When customs officers at Heathrow detained an Indian couple for two hours last year, the *Hindustan Times* described the incident as scandalous. "Perhaps without an empire and far-flung outposts to lord

## PLO denounces Haig policy and seeks friendship of Moscow

From Tewfik Mishlawi

Beirut, April 13

A leading Palestinian official has denounced America's Middle East policy, called for closer ties with the Soviet bloc and urged European countries to act independently of the United States in the search for peace in the Middle East.

Mr Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), told the Palestine National Council (parliament in exile), now meeting in Damascus, that the United States had "adopted a hostile and offensive policy in the Middle East" which was "aimed at expanding its influence and exploiting the resources of the region".

A political affairs committee of the council today began its debate on Mr Kaddoumi's 100-page political report, in which he discussed various aspects of PLO political activity since the last council session about two years ago. Radical Palestinian leaders, while endorsing Mr Kaddoumi's report in general, are demanding "practical action" to counter Washington's policies.

The PLO official, who is equivalent to a Palestinian foreign minister, condemned the recent tour of the Middle East by Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, and rejected Mr Haig's emphasis on the Soviet Union as the source of danger to Middle East security.

Mr Kaddoumi accused the Secretary of State of seeking to establish "military blocks and

aggressive bases to confront any alleged Soviet threat to the region, while ignoring the fact that Israeli occupation of Palestine and American support to it are the source of all dangers to peace and security in the area".

The Palestinians, Mr Kaddoumi added, have no alternative but to strengthen their relations with their true friends, the socialist bloc led by the Soviet Union.

Turning to Western Europe, Mr Kaddoumi noted a "positive change" toward a better understanding of the Palestinian problem. But this was not enough. He called for additional efforts to "develop" the position of the EEC countries, but did not expect an early peace initiative from them. He advised the European Community states that if they wanted their initiative on the Middle East problem to succeed, "They must steer clear of America's domination".

In his speech opening the council session on Saturday, President Hafez al-Assad of Syria made no reference to King Hussein, despite the continuing war of words between Syria and Jordan. This was interpreted as a gesture by the Syrian leader to endorse the PLO chairman, Mr Yasser Arafat, who prefers to keep his bridges open with the Jordanian monarch.

Senate inquiry: A United States Senate delegation arrived in Tel Aviv today from Saudi Arabia to examine Israeli objections to the supply of advanced American arms to the Saudis.—Reuter.

## Syrians mopping up around encircled Lebanese town

Beirut, April 13—Syrian troops today carried out mopping-up operations against right-wing militia around the besieged eastern Lebanese town of Zahle.

The Syrian Government simultaneously rejected French-led moves to set up a new international force to police a ceasefire in the Lebanese authorities request.

Syrian forces have cut off Zahle, and are fighting Phalangist forces in the village of Qaa al-Rim, three miles north.

The officially-controlled Syrian press today strongly criticised the latest French moves, describing them as interference in Syrian-Lebanese affairs.

France has said it is ready

to play a leading role in setting up a buffer force. Two days ago Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, said in Paris that the United States and France were taking coordinated diplomatic action to help to end the bloodshed.

Mr Camille Chamoun, head of the right-wing Lebanese front alliance, today criticised the crisis with President Ezer Weizman and suggested talks with the Syrians as the way to settle Lebanon's problems.

The Phalangists, who dominate the Lebanese Front, have so far rejected direct talks with the Syrians, whom they accuse of attempting creeping annexation of the country.—Reuter.

## Liberian military prepare return to civilian rule

Monrovia, April 13—A year after seizing power, Liberia's military Government has announced that it is forming a commission to draft a constitution as a prelude to a return to civilian rule.

Master Sergeant Samuel Doe, the head of state, made the announcement in a speech to mark the anniversary of the coup in which President William Tolbert was assassinated. But Sergeant Doe, aged 29, who staged the coup with 16 other enlisted men, did not say when military rule would end.

The old constitution was suspended after the coup. The 25-member commission will be headed by Mr Amos Sawyer, head of the political science department at Liberia University.

Sergeant Doe said the members were chosen to take into account "regional balance, technical competence and commitment to the course of change in

the interest of the Liberian masses".

He also announced that 19 political prisoners were being released. Mr Chea Cheapoo, the Justice Minister, told reporters the prisoners included Mr Ernest Charles and Mr Allan Williams, two former defence ministers.

He said 24 political prisoners remained in jail including Mr Adolphus Tolbert, elder son of the late President. Sergeant Doe paid tribute to the help his Government was getting from the United States, its biggest aid supplier, which gave \$23.85m (about £10.8m) in 1980 and has approved \$35m this year. American officials say the final amount could be greater.

The United States links were symbolised by the presence here since last Friday of about 100 American Green Beret commandos for 30 days' training with the Liberian Army.—Reuter.

## Hope of end to Gujarat caste conflict

From Trevor Fishlock

Delhi, April 13

The caste conflict in the western Indian state of Gujarat, which has cost more than 40 lives, appeared to have been resolved today in an agreement between the agitators and the authorities. The junior doctors, who have been in the forefront of trouble during the past three months, agreed to stop demonstrations and other actions.

The agreement, which the curfew in Gujarat which has involved rioting, arson, murder and beatings, will now subside. But the bitterness created during the trouble will take some time to heal.

The conflict had its roots in caste prejudice and perceptions of changing fortunes among the caste groups. Postgraduate students started demonstrating against the reservation system through which India attempts to redress economic and social

wrongs arising from the caste system.

Since independence there have been quotas of jobs and college places reserved for people of recognised tribes and of lower castes like *harijans* (untouchables).

In Gujarat, resentment erupted because higher caste students felt that lower caste people were being treated too favourably. They said that deserving students could not get places in colleges.

Their demonstrations demanding the ending of the quota system led directly to inter-caste, murders and the burning of homes. Police had on several occasions to resort to baton charges, tear gas and shooting to break up mobs. The state government invoked the law providing for detention without trial.

Meanwhile the quota system was vigorously defended by

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, and the Indian Parliament, who made it plain they were committed to the quota system as part of a framework of equality and justice in a society traditionally ordered on caste lines.

In the face of the government's determination not to be browbeaten, the students and their supporters saw that their agitation would run out of steam. They had planned to start today an indefinite fast, an action hardly likely to worry the authorities, but instead had talked with the state government.

As part of the deal the junior doctors agreed to stop the agitation that has disrupted life in the state, has spread fear and bitterness, and has closed the colleges. The authorities agreed to release arrested students and to improve conditions in colleges and increase students' stipends.

She applied to visit this country in August 1979 for her grand-daughter's wedding and was turned down on the grounds that she might stay here. The same thing happened again last year.

Mrs Thatcher is likely to be lobbied strongly about the special voucher scheme; former East African Asians, who are British passport holders, have to wait more than five and a half years to enter Britain because the quota for them is set at about 500 a year.

It is suspected that it is deliberately being kept low in India, but high in other parts of the world, such as East Africa, where few Asians remain. By reshuffling the quota to allow the 5,000 people waiting in India to come here, the Prime Minister could generate some much-needed good will.

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# Brixton riot inquiry: 'We cannot buy our way out of these problems'

House of Commons

Lord Scarman, a Lord of Appeal, is to undertake an inquiry into the serious disorders in Brixton over the weekend. The inquiry was announced in a statement by Mr. William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, who said the events of the weekend called for the most thorough investigation. He had decided to appoint an inquiry under the provisions of the Police Act, 1964. The inquiry would be held in public where Lord Scarman decided it was appropriate to be held in private.

Mr. Whitelaw said: The House is well aware of the violent clashes which have occurred between the police and young people, mainly black, in the Brixton area. The riot took place in the afternoon and evening of Saturday. Shops were looted, vehicles destroyed and other property, including private homes, seriously damaged.

Again yesterday there were outbreaks of lawlessness in the area, though on a lesser scale. Over the two days a total of 149 police officers were injured, along with 58 members of the public. Ten police officers and one member of the public remain in hospital.

We in Parliament, on behalf of the people of this country, have placed on the police the heavy burden of maintaining peace on the streets and the rule of law. Whatever questions may arise in people's minds about the reasons why this outbreak of violence occurred, there is no doubt in my mind, nor should there be in the mind of any Member of this House, that the Metropolitan Police officers who ranks carried out their duty with great bravery and professionalism.

It is the duty of the Home Secretary to ensure that the police are properly equipped and supported. It is also my duty to ensure that the police are properly equipped and supported. It is also my duty to ensure that the police are properly equipped and supported.

The police will continue to do their duty to maintain the law on the streets of London, and in this they are entitled to the full support of Parliament. The events of this weekend call for the most thorough examination. I have therefore decided to appoint an inquiry under Section 32 of the Police Act, 1964. I have invited Lord Scarman to undertake this inquiry and I am glad to say he has accepted. His terms of reference will be:

"To inquire into the events of the weekend of 10 and 11 April 1981 in Brixton, and to make recommendations on the basis of his findings."

The inquiry will be held in public where Lord Scarman decides that it is appropriate to be held in private.

Mr. Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs

(Birmingham, Sparkbrook, Lab.) questioned Mr. Whitelaw on the Opposition's sympathy to the many policemen and fire officers who were injured while performing their legitimate duties in Brixton during the weekend. (Conservative cheers.)

We deplore the violence that took place in Brixton. The police and fire officers who were injured while performing their legitimate duties in Brixton during the weekend. (Conservative cheers.)

We support the setting up of an inquiry but believe it should investigate more than the specific incident or incidents that precipitated last weekend's violent events. Certainly it must examine what happened on Saturday and Sunday, and how the police responded to the situation.

Our view, that is only the beginning of the inquiry. The question is how the area can be helped to avoid a repetition of such incidents. It is not enough to say that such incidents can be avoided in other parts of the country.

The events of the last two days have deep-rooted and fundamental causes. Those causes and roots must be explored. The inquiry must go further than policing procedures alone.

We hope it would examine three points. First the employment prospects of the young people in the area. Even when the slump is over, they will need special assistance to find jobs.

Second, the housing prospects in the immediate area should be covered. Anyone who has visited Maitland Road or Raiton Road must realize that the physical conditions of that area have a crucial effect on the events. Money should be provided for the improvement of the area.

Third, we need a fundamental review of the relationship between the Brixton police and the Brixton community. It is not enough to say that the police are responsible for the breakdown of the relationship between the police and the public. It is the duty of the inquiry to discover how it happened and how it can be avoided.

An inquiry under Section 32 of the Police Act, 1964, may in many ways be inadequate. It concentrates on only one aspect of the issues which are fundamental.

Therefore I urge him to keep an open mind on both the nature of the inquiry and those who should be invited to carry it out. He should have representations about its membership and its terms of reference.

I urge him to set up a wide range of inquiry, not only of the events as well as the causes.

I urge him to compose that inquiry of a number of respectable and reputable persons familiar with the problems involved in such an area. A limited inquiry in these terms cannot be more than a palliative. In my view, the time for palliatives is past.

Mr. Whitelaw: I am grateful for the remarks of the hon. Member. I am sure that the police should have left the area. There was pressure that this should happen and I am sure that the police would have been able to do so.

The terms of reference of the inquiry will enable Lord Scarman

to consider the matters he mentioned.

I had in mind that the Select Committee on Home Affairs is just completing a study of racial disadvantage generally and it is not wrong to cross the wires of the two inquiries.

I had in mind it was important to get a quick and urgent answer. In regard to the Red Lion Square inquiry, I have been asked to produce a report, and quickly. It seemed sensible to follow that precedent.

I have asked Lord Scarman to do it. I know he has wide support throughout the House. I hope it will be done quickly and I believe the inquiry can inquire into the matters he has raised.

Mr. Hattersley: In the genuine and perhaps desperate desire to minimize the damage that will come out of the last two days, may I reiterate my firm belief that the circumstances that brought about the Red Lion Square inquiry are different from those which caused the Brixton disturbances?

I plead with him at least to consider accepting representations about the nature of the inquiry and the people who should be invited to carry it out. He has come quickly to this conclusion. I hope he will leave his mind open for one day more at least.

Mr. Whitelaw: I took the view that it was crucial for this House to take a firm, clear and decisive action at the earliest possible opportunity. That is why I acted urgently.

I managed to obtain the services of Lord Scarman. I trust the House will allow me to do so.

Mr. John Fraser (Lambeth, North, Lab.): I share the regret that the inquiry is not taking place but it is not the immediate cause of what happened that matters. What is needed is a broad-based, sensitive inquiry into the underlying causes.

Deep disaffection about relations with the police is being fostered by my constituents as one of the causes, and deep concern about unemployment and the other consequences of economic policy are others. I urge him to include these underlying causes in the inquiry under the chairmanship of Lord Scarman.

Does he regard this as a riot for which the police will pay damages under the Riot Damages Act?

I urge that we have immediate community policing henceforth in this area.

Mr. Whitelaw: Yes, it will be regarded as a riot. Yes, compensation will be paid. This is a matter for the Receiver of the Metropolitan Police in the normal way.

As for the immediate causes and the sensitive inquiry into the relationship between the police and the public in Brixton, that will be at the centre of Lord Scarman's inquiry and is entirely covered by his terms of reference, as are the other matters that he has raised.

Mr. William Shelton (Lambeth, South, Lab.): Many people will be pleased to know that they will be able to get compensation for these disturbances. The evidence is mounting that what sparked the riots off on Saturday is an indication of there being some

kind of planned trap for the police.

A recent report on police and community relations sponsored by Lambeth Council called the police an army of occupation and did much to increase hostility against the police.

Over the last two weeks or so, however, the police have been circulating throughout the area. The vast majority of the community in Lambeth are sick and fed up with the police. They are taking advantage of the genuine grievances of many of these youngsters to further their own ends.

Mr. Whitelaw: The matters he has raised obviously all come before Lord Scarman's inquiry, and I would therefore not wish to repeat some of the views he has held on some of them in the past. It is important for Lord Scarman to look at them afresh.

Mr. John Tilley (Lambeth, Central, Lab.): The vast majority of the people in the parts of Brixton in the inner district are sick and fed up with the police. They will be disappointed that the inquiry seems to be restricted and that the underlying economic and social causes need to be given secondary consideration, if at all.

Does he remember a year ago when he said that the police were the cause of the disturbances? He said that as a warning that the Government would face similar outbreaks throughout the country in the inner districts if they did not act then to remove the sources and causes of the frustration and anger?

Since then in that area, the Government has done precisely the opposite and the services of local government and the job opportunities have been cut. The police have been increased. The police have been increased. The police have been increased.

Mr. Whitelaw: There are many people who are sick and fed up with the police. They are sick and fed up with the police. They are sick and fed up with the police.

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The terms of reference of the inquiry will enable Lord Scarman

## New offence might undo 'sus' repeal

House of Commons

Considering the harm it would undoubtedly do, it was absurd to introduce the new offence of interference with a motor vehicle or trailer with the intention of stealing it or anything carried in or on it. Lord Scarman, a Lord of Appeal, is to undertake an inquiry into the serious disorders in Brixton over the weekend. The inquiry was announced in a statement by Mr. William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, who said the events of the weekend called for the most thorough investigation. He had decided to appoint an inquiry under the provisions of the Police Act, 1964. The inquiry would be held in public where Lord Scarman decided it was appropriate to be held in private.

Mr. Whitelaw said: The House is well aware of the violent clashes which have occurred between the police and young people, mainly black, in the Brixton area. The riot took place in the afternoon and evening of Saturday. Shops were looted, vehicles destroyed and other property, including private homes, seriously damaged.

Again yesterday there were outbreaks of lawlessness in the area, though on a lesser scale. Over the two days a total of 149 police officers were injured, along with 58 members of the public. Ten police officers and one member of the public remain in hospital.

We in Parliament, on behalf of the people of this country, have placed on the police the heavy burden of maintaining peace on the streets and the rule of law. Whatever questions may arise in people's minds about the reasons why this outbreak of violence occurred, there is no doubt in my mind, nor should there be in the mind of any Member of this House, that the Metropolitan Police officers who ranks carried out their duty with great bravery and professionalism.

It is the duty of the Home Secretary to ensure that the police are properly equipped and supported. It is also my duty to ensure that the police are properly equipped and supported. It is also my duty to ensure that the police are properly equipped and supported.

The police will continue to do their duty to maintain the law on the streets of London, and in this they are entitled to the full support of Parliament. The events of this weekend call for the most thorough examination. I have therefore decided to appoint an inquiry under Section 32 of the Police Act, 1964. I have invited Lord Scarman to undertake this inquiry and I am glad to say he has accepted. His terms of reference will be:

"To inquire into the events of the weekend of 10 and 11 April 1981 in Brixton, and to make recommendations on the basis of his findings."

The inquiry will be held in public where Lord Scarman decides that it is appropriate to be held in private.

Mr. Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs

growing unemployment among young people, black and white, and when there is evidence of tension between this youth and the police in some areas, that this new offence should be introduced?

Mr. Whitelaw: I am grateful for the remarks of the hon. Member. I am sure that the police should have left the area. There was pressure that this should happen and I am sure that the police would have been able to do so.

The terms of reference of the inquiry will enable Lord Scarman

## Motorway service areas bitterly criticized for high food and fuel prices

After Conservative and Labour MPs had complained of rotten motorway service areas, Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, admitted that many services were unsatisfactory.

She said that if the situation did not improve the Director General of Fair Trading would be asked to investigate the matter. She said that if the situation did not improve the Director General of Fair Trading would be asked to investigate the matter.

Mr. Hugh Dykes (Harrow East, C) asked the Secretary of State for Transport whether she would be asked to investigate the matter.

Mr. Peter Hardy (Rother Valley, Lab.): Since she will not take action with the Director General, I am sure that she will be asked to investigate the matter.

Mr. John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on trade, said that the situation was not satisfactory.

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As this Government believes in competition, the sooner we have some action, the better for everyone concerned. (Cheers.)

Mrs. Oppenheim: I agree. Sympathy is not enough and the situation as it exists is not acceptable.

The Secretary of State for Transport hopes to encourage more competition between operators by selling long-term leases and give them greater commercial freedom, but this will be monitored carefully indeed to ensure it results in higher standards.

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## Budget critics misunderstand basic objective

Those people who described the Budget as a "deflationary" misnomer, and who levelled an average of 8 per cent further a year than urban motorists, the extra tax would be grossly wrong and unfair to talk about social considerations when what we ought to be talking about is an act of criminality.

The day we confuse the two is the day we speak of the end of civilized society.

Mr. Whitelaw: I agree. Everything that is said is consistent with it. It must be that the police have the right to expect the full support of everyone in this country. It is not enough to say that the police have the right to expect the full support of everyone in this country.

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of unemployment benefit before the new measure came into effect.

There was a high probability that PSBR would overshoot the £10,500 which was the current target. It would be necessary to reduce PSBR again. It would be necessary to reduce PSBR again.

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## New safety regulations for household products likely

House of Commons

The Government intend shortly to introduce regulations to prevent such accidents by suitable warning labels and I intend shortly to circulate safety regulations on the matter.

Mr. Kenneth Lewis (Rutland and Stamford, C): That is a very good idea. I am sure that the Government will be able to do so.

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If they do not to my satisfaction, I will introduce legislation accordingly under the Consumer Safety Act.

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labels, it would be a better idea to proceed with legislation to require the provision of child-resistant containers for these household products.

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Even after the increases, the tax on petrol is less in real terms than it was in 1970, or 1960 or 1950, and before the Budget the price of petrol in the United Kingdom was the lowest in the EEC except for Germany. It was now broadly in line with the rest of the Community.

Of course (he said), I recognize the people living in rural areas are putting up with a lot of inconvenience to travel long distances to work or to do the shopping, and depend on the motor car. Representing the constituency, I am only too well aware of the strength of this feeling.

Some individuals were certainly particularly badly affected, but looking at the picture as a whole,

the evidence of independent studies suggested that while rural motorists travelled on an average of 8 per cent further a year than urban motorists, the extra tax would be grossly wrong and unfair to talk about social considerations when what we ought to be talking about is an act of criminality.

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## Boycott should be fit to resume England's quest for saving grace

of the Middlesex side by David and van der Bij. In Simon Hughes, Middlesex also have real fast bowling prospect. How must they have felt when they heard the news about Thompson?

the same as the selectors, imagine scored by such self-indulgence.

ENGLAND: First innings 225 16, Good 153; 2nd 144 5 for 56.

WEST INDIES: First innings 100, Greenidge, c. Matham, b. C. Richards, 6; 2nd 100, b. Richards, c. Downton, 2.

1st Test: 1st day, 1st innings 100, Mathis, c. sub, b. O'Neil; 2nd day, 1st innings 100, c. Lloyd, c. Downton, b. Jackson, 1; 2nd day, 2nd innings 100, H. A. Goss, not out, 2; 3rd day, 1st innings 100, M. A. Murray, c. Good, b. Embury, 1; 2nd day, 2nd innings 100, J. Garraway, b. Embury, 1; 3rd day, 2nd innings 100, J. Garraway, b. Embury, 1.

H. A. McMillan, c.	Dawson	b
Batter		
C. M. Cook, c.	Sub. b.	Sherman
Kentner (c & s, w. l. x-8-5)		
Total		6
RALL ON WICKETS:	1-118;	3
7-172	8-227	9
2-215	6-247	0-242
0-242		
BOWLING: Chiles, 29.5-4-15-		
at Sherman 24.1-3-72-3; Graham		
23.5-3-72-3; Kentner 23.5-3-72-3;		
G. Ramseyer, 56-2-105-2; Wilkey		
56-2-105-2		
Umpires C. Cunningham and D.		
Song Hiss.		

The second proposal, also by Carrick, was that "any overseas player registered with an English county must, before registration is granted, have a contract of employment with that county for a minimum of two years."

Radio country dispute. The Test and County Cricket Board are confident that radio coverage of important matches will continue

next season despite an argument over money. The BBC are still refusing to meet the board's demand for £125,000 for a new three-year contract, but the gap between the sides is said by Peter Lush, the TCCB marketing manager, to be only £3,000 a year. If agreement for the full package—which includes the 1981 Australian tour—is reached, the board would consider a contract involving reduced coverage.

# advance

question of semantics. The LTA propose to discard the practice of having a figurehead with the title of president, as well as a chairman. One man is to do both jobs. The title of president is to be retained.

The CIA's "new" master of men has been 10, an encouraging pat-on-the-back, and a recommendation to consider even more drastic changes. It may arouse some cynicism that the maximum number of people immediately responsible for a strenuous sports life is to be reduced, gradually, to 70. But no-one can be first nominated for the council at an age less than 65. The minimum age appointed must be over 65. The old soldiers are moving in the right direction.

MONTY CARLO. Once known as the first round; B. Tavaris (France) beat C. Giguere (Algeria); best M. Orfanedes (Greece) vs. J. L. Garcia (Spain); best J. Giguere (Spain) vs. M. Garmy (Switzerland); best E. J. Anderson (Canada) vs. R. S. Giguere (South); best A. J. Anderson (Canada) vs. R. S. Giguere (South). Best M. Orfanedes (Greece) vs. J. L. Garcia (Spain).

# stores faith ceptable

Joanna, formerly a pillar of the British junior team, told me she had two super coaches, but she was not allowed to take them abroad, but if they had to prove themselves at Badminton: first—no way! said Joanna. She said she would have liked to have no wish to ride at Badminton again, but after this year's event she agreed that, if she had the chance, she would have enjoyed the ride.

Cross-country courses first attracted criticism for their severity at the Rome Olympics 11 years ago. The criticism was based on the fact that the cross-country was first introduced in 1970, where fence was combined as spread with a drop, and the cross-country was not a test of the horse's endurance. The cross-country championships at Kiev in 1975, a big square over over a mile, was criticised again over its severity, which caused among its riders a feeling of being "kicked in the gut". The world championships at Lexington in 1978 with the "fence" section badly criticised, and the European team event, combined with the European team event, was criticised in 1979. European champion

Happily for the future of the sport, the paddulum seems to have swung back. Riders maintain that badminton is always tougher than it is. They say that it was just as tough this year, but it was not as tough to the horses, the essential malnutrition.

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## M Windsor

Riders at the show, sponsored by Hickstead, at Hickstead this weekend. They include the Frenchman, Gilles Bertram de Balauda, who is the number one of the European qualifiers for next week's Volvo World Cup in Barmingham. Nine overseas nations will be represented at Hickstead.

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## Indonesia to host

Indonesia will host an international badminton championship with \$57,600 in prize money next November. It is the chairman of the Indonesian Badminton Federation, who said yesterday. Leading players will be invited to the event on December 17-24 at the International Badminton Federation and its officials. The World Badminton Federation, complete their planned merger next month. —Renter.

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## Marlow western-bound

Months of fund raising by Marlow Rugby Club reach fruition tomorrow when 46 players and officials leave for a day tour of Texas. Marlow will play their hosts, Fort Worth. Austin, Dallas, Harlingen, and

United Dallas-Fort Worth XV.

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 400 million to 600 million. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 700 million by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 800 million by the year 2020. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 900 million by the year 2025. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1 billion by the year 2030. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.1 billion by the year 2035. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.2 billion by the year 2040. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.3 billion by the year 2045. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.4 billion by the year 2050. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.5 billion by the year 2055. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.6 billion by the year 2060. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2065. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.8 billion by the year 2070. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.9 billion by the year 2075. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 2 billion by the year 2080. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 2.1 billion by the year 2085. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 2.2 billion by the year 2090. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 2.3 billion by the year 2095. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 2.4 billion by the year 2100.

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# The rebels out to win with guns and a prayer

Trevor Fishlock, in the first of three articles on the guerrilla war in Afghanistan, reports from inside the Mujahidin stronghold of Torabora

The blackened rubble of Torabora war camp bears witness to its importance as a Mujahidin base. Russian gunships have bombed and rocketed it many times; the doctor is still swabbing stinging iodine on shrapnel gashes after the last raid, but the guerrillas are grinning and their black and white flag flies jauntily, a sort of thumb nose. The Russians have failed to blast them from their mountain crevices and Mujahidin confidence, vigour and capability are growing.

After 12 days in Afghanistan, including three among the 200 Mujahidin lodged in this hide-out above the roaring Agara river, I left with a clear impression of a guerrilla force increasingly well organized, armed and supplied.

In this area at least the traditional picture of yelling motley bands of wild and ill-disciplined tribesmen is no longer accurate. Fierceness, ruthlessness and devotion to fighting remain their unadorned stock in trade. But to these qualities have been grafted a strong command structure and a sense of order and purpose.

The Mujahidin in Nangahar province have not only consolidated their area of control by driving government sympathizers out. They believe they are getting the enemy's morale down by the good morale derives from the feeling that strength is growing in their sinews.

Torabora is the headquarters of one of the new breed of mountain chiefs of Afghanistan. Abdul Khayum is a thoughtful and courteous, middle-aged, 30-year-old teacher, aged 30, who has exchanged his Jalalabad classroom for this 2,000ft. eyrie, and his books for bandoliers, a Soviet Kalashnikov automatic

rifle and a belt with a couple of full 30-round magazines stuck in it. Abdul Khayum is a province commander. From Torabora he plans and directs attacks on Russian and Afghan army positions throughout Nangahar province, and especially in the city of Jalalabad, 32 miles to the north, the scene of constant fighting.

There are four major commanders under him, and each of these heads about a dozen groups of about 30 men who have their own sub-commanders. The relationship between commanders and men is easy and informal, but the leaders have genuine authority. Many of them are former teachers and count former students among their men.

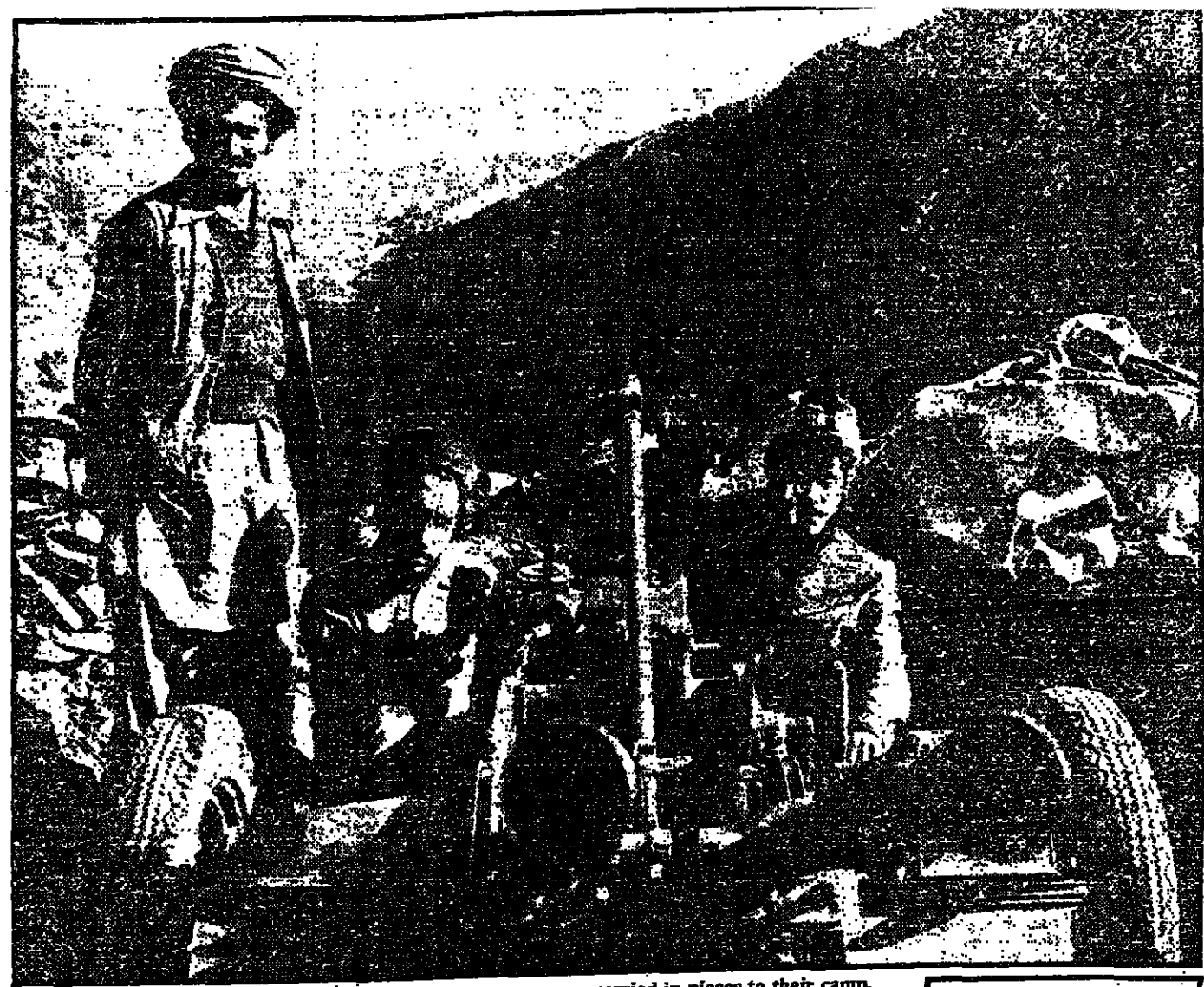
A typical group going out on a raid has, as I saw, about 15 Kalashnikovs, a light machine gun on a tripod, an assortment of rifles, full ammunition pouches and belts, and one or two Soviet shoulder-held rocket-propelled grenade launchers, with youths, like powder monkeys, carrying the grenades.

All the men here are Nangahar men, fighting on their home ground and for it. They spend most of their time in the province and when they go to Pakistan it is usually to visit their families who are refugees. Abdul Khayum is a prudent man. "This is going to be a long war and we have to concentrate on building our reserves of weapons and ammunition. We need some means of bringing down the helicopters, more bullets and more medical supplies. These things will come in time. In 15 months we have grown much stronger and we have the advantage of fighting on our own soil. We will grow still stronger."

His prime means of waging war is to harass government troops and installations by commando raids, and to ambush lorries and troop carriers. The Mujahidin always try to retrieve weapons and ammunition during their attacks.

"The hope in the long term is a Kalashnikov for every man", Abdul Khayum said. The Mujahidin have sympathizers in the demoralized and depleted Afghan army who are conduits for arms, and especially for ammunition. Sometimes sold for up to 50 pence a Kalashnikov round. Deserting soldiers frequently give their guns to the Mujahidin before heading for Pakistan, or they simply throw in their lot with the rebels. A number of men showed me their army identity cards.

A few months ago a young Afghan army officer, Nagib Ullah, who had been supplying arms to the Mujahidin, drove out of Jalalabad at the wheel of an armoured troop carrier. It now lies wrecked in a gully some miles from Torabora, and the raffish Nagib Ullah, who looks like a young Errol Flynn,



Mujahidin guerrillas with a twin-barrelled 20 millimetre cannon carried in pieces to their camp.

is now a Mujahidin group commander. The guerrillas have no radio system, which is probably to their advantage, and operate without maps; they know their land too well to need them. Abdul Khayum receives requests and reports in writing and sends messengers with his orders.

There are no women in Torabora. It is not a village in the usual sense, but a base where fighting men group, prepare and rest after attacks. Their needs are eminently simple and their monotonous diet consists of flat, hard wheat bread baked on iron dishes, a sort of spiced, occasional glutinous rice sprinkled with the juice of bitter oranges, and sometimes the luxury of a potato or an egg. Their most important requirement from Jalalabad, apart from ammunition, is green and black tea and the sugar which is their main energy source.

On my way in to Torabora, after a three day march over the mountains from Pakistan, the Mujahidin supply vanguard I was with, had to skirt a vil-

lage a few miles down the Agara river because it was being shelled by tanks and pounded by helicopter gunships.

"That is my village", Abdul Khayum said. "My own house and garden was smashed a year ago and my wife and children escaped to Pakistan."

Torabora's location protects it from tank or artillery fire, but helicopters can still get into the gorge to wreck the stronghold's scattered mud and stone buildings. The guerrillas had three Russian 20 millimetre machine guns sited in the hillsides to fight these attacks. And a few days ago they installed two brand new twin barrelled 20 millimetre cannons which they humped up the gorge in pieces.

"They came from Jalalabad", Abdul Khayum said cryptically. Each has a cave for living and a magazine store, with a rock door, dug into the mountain-side.

The development of their fire power, and the swelling of their numbers, has given them considerable pride among the

Mujahidin here. It is part of the basis of their belief that they will win in the end, and an important contribution to the high spirits which characterize Torabora's community and the groups I met on the plains to the north.

But also important is their faith. The five times a day ritual of prayer is observed by the majority of the men. They finger their prayer beads as lovingly as they stroke their well-cared-for guns. It often seems that their prayers have become an assertion of their will to resist. A young man stripping off his bandolier and laying down his rifle before saying his prayers at sunset said "We pray, we win."

In the Westminster election of February 1974, the sectarian tendency led to a landslide against the power-sharing executive even though the opinion polls showed that a large majority of the voters favoured the executive.

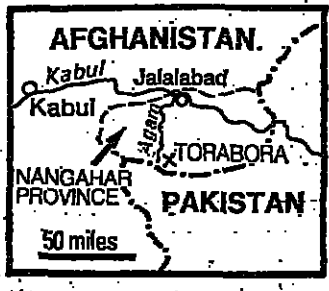
Proportional representation is vital for all elections in Northern Ireland; otherwise the process of political change would be brought to a halt or even reversed, by periodic tribal contests of this kind.

The stark fact of this election is that no perceptible element among the Catholic population could envisage voting for the British Conservative in any circumstances. It is, however, equally true that no perceptible element among the Protestant population would be prepared to vote for an anti-Unionist candidate of whatever kind. That fundamental cleavage remains.

One side of the divide people cling to old aspirations, which basically involve a surrender of identity and aspirations by "the other side". But the politics of conquest are sterile, unrealistic and hopeless. It is impossible to force people to be what they are not, or to prevent them being what they are. A way must be found of accommodating both aspirations within a framework which allows people to be what they are, and which enables them to cooperate together in government without prejudice to their basic identity.

That has been the policy of the Social Democratic and Labour Party from the beginning. We have succeeded in persuading the great majority of anti-Unionists to follow us, and we have attracted some Protestant support, though minimal.

In PR elections where voters are released from sectarian



pressures we have maintained a significant level of support for our position. We will continue to do so. But ultimately any political party must be able to show its followers some movement, some hope of progress towards achievement of their policies.

The most disturbing aspect of Northern Ireland politics is that there has been no similar modification of the Unionist position. If anything, Unionist leaders have drifted steadily to the right. Those Unionist leaders who attempted to rethink traditional attitudes were quietly dispatched at the polls. Paisleyism is in the ascendant.

The attitude of Unionists is natural and inevitable. In the struggles of the early part of this century they won the contest. The Northern Ireland state was created for them and they were given control of it. Having chosen sectarianism as the basis of their state they have found themselves trapped by that same sectarianism.

It is inevitable that they regard any movement away from the present position as a victory for "the other side". In the present circumstances they are prisoners of their own history and cannot change. Therefore the circumstances must be changed.

Present political arrangements are the result of a lengthy struggle at the beginning of this century to reshape relationships between the peoples of these islands. The 1921 settlement was not provided for a reason, and it was not meant to be a final settlement. The whole matter of relationships between Ireland and Britain has not been thoroughly or finally worked out. Unionist leaders have a just claim to the attention and thanks of the sovereign governments in London and Dublin have set their minds to it at last.

The process begun by the two Prime Ministers in January promises a new framework of relations, and political ties to islands which could transform the context of the Northern Ireland problem. In those new circumstances of closer links and cooperation between the two islands, it will be easier for Unionist leaders to move out of the trenches without fear of the erosion of their identity.

In creating a new framework we do not have to be bound by any existing or previously existing models. The time is right for courageous and imaginative leadership in London, Dublin and Belfast.

There is a unique relationship between Ireland and Britain. Our history has bound us together with economic, social, cultural and political ties to numerous dimensions. To give institutional expression to that relationship is not to undermine the basic interests of the Northern Ireland majority but rather to give them added security.

The new security would change the political circumstances within Ireland itself and make possible an end to our age-old conflict, and give adequate expression to the statement of Irish identity so forcefully expressed by the majority of the electorate in Fermanagh and South Tyrone.

In the meantime, I hope that sounds from London of threats by the mother of parliaments to expel a democratically and legally elected member—whatsoever his views—howsoever intransigent they are—have no foundation. It is the Westminster Parliament who will decide who sits there, or the electorate? In essence they would be saying to the electorate in Fermanagh and South Tyrone: "Send us someone who is more to our liking in a new election."

They would find no self-respecting democrat in Northern Ireland to participate in such an election. They would give enormous credence to the physical force movement, whose essential argument is that the ballot box is a waste of time.

The French never lose their sense of chic, not even at the security check at Charles de Gaulle airport. Paris. A colleague watched a woman in a long, flowing, white dress, a woman wearing a jaunty hat held at its angle by a huge and potentially lethal hatpin, which was regarded suspiciously by the guards. "Mais vous comprenez", she murmured sweetly, "pour le chapeau d'un faux abominable." She was whisked through with adoring smiles of understanding, fully equipped to open up the entire crew in the back.

Alan Hamilton

# been a third man at Fermanagh....

by John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party

The election of a hunger striker in the Maze prison is a poignant reminder of just how deeply the Northern Ireland community is divided. Only a fraction of the 30,000 voters who elected him support violence—that has been proved in election after election, and poll after poll of public opinion.

A far greater proportion of his vote came from people who are genuinely concerned about the prison problem and who felt that they were voting for a humanitarian solution of it. But the great majority of the votes came from people who were voting against Unionism and in support of their Irish identity, as they have done for generations. For them, any anti-Unionist candidate is better than a Unionist, regardless of his background or connections. I believe that in these circumstances Parliament must not expel Mr Robert Sands.

Above all this election demonstrates the damaging effect of the "first past the post" electoral system in Northern Ireland's circumstances. In finely balanced constituencies like Fermanagh and South Tyrone, Westminster elections have tended to a huge and very noisy cry for "unity" candidates. Of its very nature that urge has a polarizing effect on both communities, and drives them to their polar extremes.

Parties of change and movement are not the result of the electoral system. The candidates who most loudly proclaim allegiance to traditional aspirations; the urge is to maximize the sectarian element in the community and to keep it in a permanent state of long-term considerations are swept aside.

In this election, with Mr Noel Maguire, brother of the previous MP in the field, the Social Democratic and Labour Party would have faced the electorally untouchable challenge of having the threat to the Unionists with the resulting overall damage to the party's permanent standing. Subsequently, after the close of nominations, Mr Maguire withdrew his candidature in a peculiar and unexplained circumstance, leaving Mr Sands alone in the field.

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pressures we have maintained a significant level of support for our position. We will continue to do so. But ultimately any political party must be able to show its followers some movement, some hope of progress towards achievement of their policies.

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Alan Hamilton

## A fond pip pip to my priggish friends

Bernard Levin

I suppose I ought to annoy the food prigs once more before I go. I have been back to Pêre Bise, and on the same trip I visited the legendary Girardet for the first time, and on top of that discovered Chez Pierre, of which I had never finished their baked beans, and my gastronomic and professional pen friend will pour out a glass of something pleasant and settle down to enjoy himself, you shall hear.

Business took me to Montreux which was in itself a nostalgic journey, for it was the first place I went to on my first visit abroad, more decades ago than I care to remember. (I can even remember the name of the hotel I stayed at on that occasion: the Bonivard). And just along the road from Montreux, in a suburb of Lausanne called Crissier, there stands the restaurant of Frédy Girardet whom I have heard many good judges say that it can compare with the best in France: a large elms. You can indeed eat well in Switzerland, and I often have (at the Veldner Keller in Zürich, for instance, the Euler in Basle, and Chesa Veglia in St Moritz), but a comparison with the best in France is another matter, and I have long felt the need to judge for myself.

So I did; but the night before I lunched chez Girardet. I went into Vevey to try Chez Pierre, which I had found in a little booklet called *La route Suisse des plaisirs de la table* (if the publishers of it, who seem to constitute a kind of club rather like the organization of Relais de Campagne restaurants, are reading this, I would be grateful if they would send me an up-to-date

copy). There is a brasserie downstairs, and a tiny restaurant up; I went.

I began with the *foie gras chaud aux raisins*, poached in a lovely truffled sauce which I mopped up with about three-quarters of a loaf of the wickedly delicious home-baked dark bread Pierre Bédard provides. (The pips had not been removed from the grapes. I didn't mind, indeed it was nice to have something which crunched under the smoothness, but I feel obliged to mention it thus, as it is the kind of item that particularly upsets the prigs). Hesitating over the next course, I took M Bédard's advice and had the *poussin aux morilles*, nor did I regret it, for it was buried beneath a huge mound of the delicious little crinkly mushrooms, and the bird was as tender as whipped cream. Three or four cheeses later, I took a *mélange de five miniatures sorbets*; I foolishly forgot to note them, and can only remember the lemon and the passion fruit.

I drank Swiss throughout, of course, a nice crisp Aigle with the *foie gras* and a Dèzeley with the bird; I am always pleasantly surprised by Swiss wine, and wish saw more of it. I went to bed well pleased with life, and reflecting that with the memory of Chef Pierre under my belt, I was well equipped in case I was disappointed at Girardet.

O, but I wasn't! It is beautifully and tastefully decorated, and as soon as I sat down, I realized why it is necessary to book there a month in advance: there is room for only 44 diners. Lucky 44, and lucky I was one of them, for the meal which followed fully lived up to the most extravagant claims made for M Girardet's cooking. Having done so well with M Bédard's *foie gras*, I decided to begin with the *foie gras* in wine vinegar with walnut oil added, and to go on with *La côtelette de pigeon aux choux verts*, but the head waiter suggested that I might like to take a demi-portion of the *foie gras* and follow it by another entrée. To this wise proposal I naturally assented with alacrity, and sat down for lobster, which came with sauce of langoustines, and slices from a truffle that must have been the size of a football.

The whole proceedings, I should mention, were preceded by a wedge of tarte, a variation on *pissaladière*, and what with that and the *foie gras* (the vinegar setting off the richness of the meat in a most notable manner) and the lobster (fresh as though it had been caught in Lac Léman that very morning) my appetite was quite whetted for the pigeon. It came wrapped in the inner leaves of the *choux vert*—an odd combination on paper, but the vegetable's mildness was a fine foil for the strong meat of the pigeon. I had been drinking Krug as an aperitif, and went on with it up to the pigeon, with which I drank a good powerful Dôle, also very suitable for the gaily little bird.

Girardet's cheese trolley is a noble sight, so lavish that it includes three Gruyères—*à l'ail*, *mi-doux* and *doux*. I had the middle one, together with a rich Vacherin, a Tomme Vaudoise, and a couple of local *chèvres*, and by the time I had finished I was seriously doubting whether I could manage more than another couple of

courses. Fortunately, only two more were necessary; first, a delicate *millefeuille*, reminiscent in its lightness of the desserts of M Ménager, the maître-pâtissier who runs the *Hôtel de Moulin de Maine-Brun* at Angoulême, and then Girardet's selection of sorbets, which includes *grapefruit* and tea—the last so unexpected that for the life of me I could not put the name on the taste, and had to ask. The whole meal was perfect, and perfectly balanced; *vaut le voyage*.

I did not feel like much dinner that night, so I spent the evening thinking about the morrow and Pêre Bise. The morrow dawned sunny, and got sunnier as I approached; when I arrived, the lake was sparkling, a handsome swan floating majestically at the end of the jetty, and the maître-pâtissier was as welcoming as ever, and soon after I had dispatched the *parfait de foie d'oie* I was listening to the sound of the *meunière* butter bubbling on my *omble chevalier*, that rare fish, like the most delicately pink-fleshed trout, that is said to be found nowhere but in Lake Geneva and Lake Annecy. But hadn't changed, either, but tarragon being out of season, I couldn't have my usual *poulette braisée à la crème d'estragon*; instead, I had *des trufes* (truffles, a hundredweight of them) and readily succumbed to the suggestion of the other half when I had dispatched the first lot along with some rice and a lightly-dressed lettuce salad. (Old man Bise used personally to pinch the bosom of every chicken admitted to his kitchen, rejecting *sans papiers* any with even a hint of toughness. I have no doubt the process is still being followed today).

I took my coffee outside in the sunshine, and did not think of the prigs at all, though I raised my *armagnac* to the Professor. But I didn't feel like much dinner that night, either.

Only three cheeses, for I knew what was coming, and knew also that justice not only had to be done, but had to be manifestly seen to be done, which also accounted for the fact that I confined myself, to some strawberries, some Chinese gooseberries (you and the Trade Descriptions Act can call them *Kiwifruit* if you like, but I shall go on addressing them by the name under which I first met them) and a vanilla ice.

And then, to finish, the grandest of all the *grande spécialités* of that beloved maison: the *marjolaine*, a gâteau that looks like a brick and melts in the mouth like spun sugar, its quality never diminished by the twentieth part of a hair's breadth in the 25 years I have been going there.

I had been drinking Sancerre right up to the chicken, with which I planned to drink a half-bottle of 1971 Montrose, but there were no halves left, and—true to my policy of moderation at table—I felt that a whole bottle at that point might be overdoing things. So I accepted the suggestion of a wine I had never even heard of, with a name—Convent des Jacobins—like a Jewish joke. You couldn't mistake it for a grand cru, of course, but it was full of character, and the half-bottle was just enough for the chicken and the cheese.

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And then, to finish, the grandest of all the *grande spécialités* of that beloved maison: the *marjolaine*, a gâteau that looks like a brick and melts in the mouth like spun sugar, its quality never diminished by the twentieth part of a hair's breadth in the 25 years I have been going there.

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## MIDDLE EAST PRIORITIES

pace at which Mr. Administration is forcing its foreign policies is in so far as it allows against reality the simple ideas which it is during the election. Mr. Haig found on his Middle East how this process is. It is the hope of persuading the Soviet Union that the Soviet threat is important than the real dispute and that the issue should give way to it. He was also anxious to get the message that the States is now ready, in words, to reassess its responsibilities and its responsibilities. He with mixed results and support for his main thesis. A fair, Mr. Haig has a understanding that some more hard-line figures in the administration of the Arab concern about the question. During his went out of his way to that the security of the the search for a settle- the West Bank are (or, in his own inimitable "mutually reinforce- He also showed sensi- the wariness of Arab as to the idea of a western presence in the area, less, no amount of skill could conceal areas of disagreement in the United States and to the Middle East. He was only partially in calming fears of Reagan's willingness to Saudi Arabia with five (Airborne Warning and Systems) and with offe- reasons for the F-15

fighters it received from President Carter. He told the Israelis that he would ensure they retained a "qualitative edge" over the Arab states in military power, and he pleased them by calling Israel an ally, but he could not entirely persuade them that weapons intended for use against the Soviet Union or its surrogates might not be turned against Israel.

Nor did he get across his message in Jordan, where the Foreign Minister publicly contradicted his claim that there had been a convergence of views and re-emphasized that Jordan still believes that Israel, not the Soviet Union, is the main threat. King Hussein also said yet again that Jordan would not join the Camp David peace process, or any successor to it, and is not interested in any talks in which the PLO does not represent the Palestinian people. His public attitude could change if the Labour Party comes to power after the June elections in Israel and brings in new policies towards the West Bank, but there is unlikely to be any fundamental shift in Arab support for the PLO, no matter how great the Soviet threat. Indeed, it is the view of moderate Arabs that nothing gives the Soviet Union more help in the area than America's refusal to countenance a role for the PLO in the peace process.

In London attempts were made to paper over differences on this point, and there does in fact appear to be somewhat more American understanding for the European initiative than there was, thanks partly to the persuasive powers of Lord Carrington. This will be helpful when Mr. Thatcher is in the Gulf

region next week. Nevertheless, the fact remains that the policy of the United States in its present inchoate stage is based on assumptions which are not shared either by its European allies or by the principal states in the region. Even President Sadat, who speaks approvingly of the United States' resuming its role as the first super power responsible for peace all over the world, is somewhat less than eager to provide bases from which that super power could exercise its role in the Middle East.

The basic lesson for Mr. Reagan's Administration is that it cannot pursue effective regional policies without sufficient support from the states of that region. For most of the states a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute with Palestinian participation is either more important than the Soviet threat or a precondition for meeting that threat effectively. The idea that the problem could be solved by reversing priorities and trying to settle the Palestinian question on the coast tails of an agreement on Middle East security is an interesting product of Washington thinking but is largely unconnected to Middle East realities.

This does not mean it has to be abandoned altogether. It may help to remind the Middle East from time to time that it does face wider threats which at some point could make its preoccupation with internal strife seem a dangerous luxury, but the United States will not get the common front it seeks unless it is seen to be helping with the problems which most preoccupy those it would like to have as allies.

QUEST ON BRITON Secretary has acted in appointing an official into the Briton riots. Hence there has been on requiring the Government evidence of its concern official words of shock empathy. No matter how it, these by themselves inevitably seem little more formal response. There a action. Yet to be effective needs to be based careful examination of the stances. In asking Lord to undertake the in- Mr Whitelaw has taken the possible course to ensure his examination will be fair. Those are the that have characterized in Scarman reports. By those on the distur- in Northern Ireland in and the disorders in is Red Lion Square in

Home Secretary has to set up the inquiry section thirty-two of the Act 1964. This specifies a inquiry may be held matter connected with iding of any area. It is ant that Lord Scarman interpret this phrase. He will need to begin examination of the events

approach until its national committee has endorsed the plan later this year. Several other unions are known to be privately interested, while preferring to let the AUEW lead the way in flouting the TUC's official policy of wholesale rejection of the Act. As the Isle of Grain dispute showed, the AUEW is too powerful a union, and too members in the support of almost exclusively balloting in almost incessant union elections, to be easily started down by the TUC on an issue where its members' interests are seriously engaged. Balloting is the weak spot in the TUC campaign, both because a number of unions are strongly tempted to break ranks if they can, and because the case against this part of the Act is plainly a shoddy one. The official justification for the ban is that acceptance of the Act would compromise the independence of the union. It is an argument difficult to sustain while the movement continues to enjoy the advantages of friendly society status and of state assistance towards its educational activities. Some of the mooted proposals for compulsory balloting might have threatened internal union authority, but no threat of this kind is raised by voluntary ballots undertaken by properly constituted unions.

Right to work From Mrs Paul Hayter Sir, Bernard Levin's admirable article (April 8) debunking the myth of the "right to work" is a crucial point which will only be

comprehensible to those lucky enough to have received some teaching in the elements of grammar. The fact is that the "right to work" (as a verb) has become confused with the "right to work" (as a noun). The former right I suspect we would all defend; the latter, to work in the sense of "a job", is a nonsense, as Bernard Levin rightly points out. It is as though the "right to marry" had been translated into the "right to a marriage"; the former an abstract right, in principle, the latter specific and dependent upon someone else being willing.

Yours faithfully, DEBORAH HAYTER, 23 Patshull Road NWS, April 9.

and brain death Mr J. M. K. Spalding The Director General of the states (April 10) of the drama death programmes: "The final programme aroused concern in the medical world: that concern was met by the second programme. Such an astonishing view the second programme can only supported by someone dependent BBC TV for his information. The second programme the case depended on two cases used by one of Panorama's writers to demonstrate that the criteria of brain death were adequate. That witness has now been admitted that he cannot induce these cases. The bottom before falls out of Panorama's

Newspapers (including The Times) recognized the importance of the recognized and reported it. BBC TV writers apparently did not. Lacking further explanation from the BBC the public may conclude that the BBC TV was trying to cover up for the Panorama team. Yours faithfully, J. M. K. SPALDING, Shotover Close, Headington, Oxford, April 10.

From Mr K. M. Delaney Sir, Sir Philip Watson's letter today (April 10) recommending dismissal of civil servants for not performing their contractual liabilities. I have always understood that a contract imposes obligations on all those who are party to it. In this case, the Government's arbitrary breach of its obligations under established pay machinery surely renders any such contract void, to say the least. Furthermore, in other contractual spheres a party which considers itself aggrieved would have recourse to law or some other form of arbitration. The Government is adamantly denying this right to the Civil Service unions. How anyone can defend the immorality of the position is beyond me. All this flag-waving and moral indignation now affecting your leading articles and correspondence columns cannot disguise the fact that it was the employer that precipitated this particular industrial campaign, not the employees. Yours faithfully, K. M. DELANEY, 2 Darren Court, Oakdale, Blackwood, Gwent.

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Nationality proposals From Mrs I. P. Hewitt Sir, Mr John Matthews in his letter (March 27) about the nationality proposals points out the "retroactive nature" of the measure dealing with the right to limit citizenship—the fact that the children of Britons by descent will not automatically qualify for British citizenship if born abroad, including many born abroad before the Bill becomes law. I would like to point out that one aspect of the current Immigration Rules also has such a "retroactive effect". This concerns daughters born abroad to British parents: such girls, most of whom come from Asian communities, are denied the right to marry a non-British man and live with him in the United Kingdom, a right enjoyed by their male counterparts. Most of the girls affected were born before the Immigration Rules were changed to prevent the entry of male fiancés to the United Kingdom, to marry girls in this category. The British legal tradition hitherto has tended to steer clear of being retroactive, even in the case of budgetary measures to close tax loopholes. But the recent tax proposed on profits made by banks during the past year, and the examples relating to nationality and immigration show a dangerous change away from that tradition. The Minister of State at the Home Office, Mr Timothy Baisan, was reported to have said during the Nationality Bill's committee stage (on March 17, reported in The Times of March 18) that the Gov-

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Peacetime conscription From Mr R. A. Hodgkin Sir, It is beginning to seem desirable, and it may eventually become essential, that all citizens should contribute, not only in taxes but increasingly in service, to the cost of a civilized society in the twenty-first century. Compulsion might be necessary, or strong inducements such as the availability of grants for tertiary education. (The former, pace Mr Wood (April 10) is not slavery; and the latter is not bribery.) Service opportunities would be diversified, and no doubt some military options would be available. But a more crucial problem remains: how could the general tendency of such a movement remain non-totalitarian? Only, I suggest, if powerful bodies such as the churches, major charities (and the Humanist Society), enlightened industrialists and enlightened labour organizations were to take a lead now.

Charities and the law From the General Secretary of the South Place Ethical Society Sir, It is important to get the facts right. The South Place Ethical Society, founded in 1793 and descended from a Unitarian church, was recognized as a charity in the summer as the result of an appeal to the High Court. The grounds were not, as Mr Hubert Picarda (April 13) thinks, "because of its tendency to moral improvement" nor as Dr. Storer-Roe (April 13) thinks, "as an organization cultivating Humanism". Mr Justice Dillon ruled that the society's objects and record met the requirements of two of the categories of charity defined by Lord Macnaghten in Pemsel's case (1891), viz. "the advancement of education" and "the benefit of the community". It was our hope to be recognized as a charity on religious grounds, in that one of our two main objects is the advancement of a rational religious sentiment. The judge himself summarized that case in the words: "such qualities as truth, love and beauty are sacred and the advancement of such belief is the advancement of religion." However, he declined to accept this: "Religion, as I see it, is concerned with man's relation to God, and ethics are concerned with man's relation to man." Nevertheless we were happy that justice was done, but there is one aspect of the matter that none of your correspondents has remarked upon. It took us 16 difficult and expensive years to bring the matter to court, and it is surely an anomaly here. We presented the

Charity Commissioners with a problem on which they felt they needed a court ruling. One cannot quarrel with that, but as things stand there is no appeal procedure between the Charity Commissioners and the Court of Chancery. Mr Justice Dillon's ruling is asked to look at that problem and suggest a procedure to deal with it without opening any floodgate for irresponsible appeals? The sheer cost of justice is today threatening justice itself. Yours faithfully, PETER CADOGAN, South Place Ethical Society, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square WC1.

From the Headmaster of Clifton College, Bristol Sir, Dr Spencer's attempt (April 10) to link the public schools with the "hooligans" was a merry jest, though a mischievous one. He ignores, however, one important difference—apart from the obvious fact that the schools' charitable status derives from their educational, not their religious function. In order to minimize the risks of "hooliganism", the public schools make elaborate arrangements to return children to their families for periods ranging from a few days to a couple of months at regular intervals throughout the year. And I have never heard of any parents who have had to resort to the use of "snatch parties" in order to rescue their children from the clutches of over-possessive headmasters or headmistresses. Yours faithfully, STUART ANDREWS, Clifton College, Bristol.

Mark of the beast From Mr K. J. Ballinger Sir, I was saddened to read (report, April 9) that the Royal Automobile Club refused to tow Mr John Dodd's car, known as The Beast, because it was "overweight". This would appear to be a further decline of the spirit that once made this nation, and its motoring organizations, great. Yours faithfully, K. J. BALLINGER, 9 Trent Court, New Wansstead, E11, April 9.

From Wing Commander J. L. Nunn, RAF (ret'd) Sir, Is the board of Rolls-Royce so young that it cannot remember the debt we owe to the Merlin engine? Surely Mr Dodd should be allowed not only to be proud of the fact that he sits behind one when he drives, but also to acknowledge the fact. Yours faithfully, J. L. NUNN, Yew Tree Cottage, East Street, Hambleton, Portsmouth.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Civil Service strike and defence

From Mr K. M. Delaney Sir, Sir Philip Watson's letter today (April 10) recommending dismissal of civil servants for not performing their contractual liabilities.

I have always understood that a contract imposes obligations on all those who are party to it. In this case, the Government's arbitrary breach of its obligations under established pay machinery surely renders any such contract void, to say the least.

Furthermore, in other contractual spheres a party which considers itself aggrieved would have recourse to law or some other form of arbitration. The Government is adamantly denying this right to the Civil Service unions. How anyone can defend the immorality of the position is beyond me.

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## Election as MP of IRA prisoner

From Miss Jill MacMahon Sir, Whilst reading your coverage of IRA hunger striker Mr Robert Sands's chance for election, it occurred to me that his candidature emphasises a paradox in the law: namely, that although a convicted person may not, whilst detained in a penal institution, vote in an election, he may yet stand as a candidate in one.

Should our statute books continue to show our legal system to have such an asinine face?

Yours faithfully, JILL MACMAHON, 15 Croft Avenue, West Wickham, Kent, April 9.

From Sir Hugh Fraser, MP for Stafford and Stone (Conservative) Sir, I hope the House of Commons will keep it cool over the Ferriby and South Tyne election (report, April 11) and neither pardon the victor nor expunge his name from the roll of elected MPs.

The people of the constituency have a law and by that law they have chosen. No electoral regulation has seemingly been broken. By law, too, the victor serves a criminal sentence not subject to alteration.

If our leaders are in shock and seek for precedents at this season, none is better than the good book itself. The Procurator of Judaea, for understandable reasons, has been underestimated as an administrator. Neither dreams nor his wife nor curiosity nor presentiments of the future deflected him from his Roman duty, which was to judge within customary law the course least likely to cause a tumult among the people.

The people's choice, however organized, was Barabbas. Pilate accepted it: as a governor rightly. It was as the Gospel says of necessity. If, necessarily, one hopes that the leaders of the parties in the House of Commons will keep their heads and the law today.

Yours faithfully, HUGH FRASER, House of Commons, SW1.

Peacetime conscription From Mr R. A. Hodgkin Sir, It is beginning to seem desirable, and it may eventually become essential, that all citizens should contribute, not only in taxes but increasingly in service, to the cost of a civilized society in the twenty-first century. Compulsion might be necessary, or strong inducements such as the availability of grants for tertiary education. (The former, pace Mr Wood (April 10) is not slavery; and the latter is not bribery.)

Service opportunities would be diversified, and no doubt some military options would be available. But a more crucial problem remains: how could the general tendency of such a movement remain non-totalitarian? Only, I suggest, if powerful bodies such as the churches, major charities (and the Humanist Society), enlightened industrialists and enlightened labour organizations were to take a lead now.

Charities and the law From the General Secretary of the South Place Ethical Society Sir, It is important to get the facts right. The South Place Ethical Society, founded in 1793 and descended from a Unitarian church, was recognized as a charity in the summer as the result of an appeal to the High Court. The grounds were not, as Mr Hubert Picarda (April 13) thinks, "because of its tendency to moral improvement" nor as Dr. Storer-Roe (April 13) thinks, "as an organization cultivating Humanism".

Mr Justice Dillon ruled that the society's objects and record met the requirements of two of the categories of charity defined by Lord Macnaghten in Pemsel's case (1891), viz. "the advancement of education" and "the benefit of the community". It was our hope to be recognized as a charity on religious grounds, in that one of our two main objects is the advancement of a rational religious sentiment. The judge himself summarized that case in the words: "such qualities as truth, love and beauty are sacred and the advancement of such belief is the advancement of religion." However, he declined to accept this: "Religion, as I see it, is concerned with man's relation to God, and ethics are concerned with man's relation to man." Nevertheless we were happy that justice was done, but there is one aspect of the matter that none of your correspondents has remarked upon. It took us 16 difficult and expensive years to bring the matter to court, and it is surely an anomaly here. We presented the

Charity Commissioners with a problem on which they felt they needed a court ruling. One cannot quarrel with that, but as things stand there is no appeal procedure between the Charity Commissioners and the Court of Chancery.

Mr Justice Dillon's ruling is asked to look at that problem and suggest a procedure to deal with it without opening any floodgate for irresponsible appeals? The sheer cost of justice is today threatening justice itself. Yours faithfully, PETER CADOGAN, South Place Ethical Society, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square WC1.

From the Headmaster of Clifton College, Bristol Sir, Dr Spencer's attempt (April 10) to link the public schools with the "hooligans" was a merry jest, though a mischievous one. He ignores, however, one important difference—apart from the obvious fact that the schools' charitable status derives from their educational, not their religious function.

In order to minimize the risks of "hooliganism", the public schools make elaborate arrangements to return children to their families for periods ranging from a few days to a couple of months at regular intervals throughout the year. And I have never heard of any parents who have had to resort to the use of "snatch parties" in order to rescue their children from the clutches of over-possessive headmasters or headmistresses.

Yours faithfully, STUART ANDREWS, Clifton College, Bristol.

Mark of the beast From Mr K. J. Ballinger Sir, I was saddened to read (report, April 9) that the Royal Automobile Club refused to tow Mr John Dodd's car, known as The Beast, because it was "overweight". This would appear to be a further decline of the spirit that once made this nation, and its motoring organizations, great.

Yours faithfully, K. J. BALLINGER, 9 Trent Court, New Wansstead, E11, April 9.

From Wing Commander J. L. Nunn, RAF (ret'd) Sir, Is the board of Rolls-Royce so young that it cannot remember the debt we owe to the Merlin engine? Surely Mr Dodd should be allowed not only to be proud of the fact that he sits behind one when he drives, but also to acknowledge the fact.

Yours faithfully, J. L. NUNN, Yew Tree Cottage, East Street, Hambleton, Portsmouth.

New life for film making From Lord Brabourne and Sir David Puttnam Sir, We have read with interest the letter (April 10) signed by a number of distinguished film makers and we both support what is said in it. In paragraph two, the letter advocates "the establishment within a single ministry of a new statutory body". We are both members of the future Action Committee on the Future of the Film Industry. This committee has been preserving for some time for the formation of a British Film Authority whose function, among other things, would be to examine the existing legislation affecting film and television and be the principal adviser to the Government on all matters relating to the audio-visual entertainment industry, as suggested in the letter.

We hope very much that this new initiative by so many distinguished film makers will help to persuade the Government of the urgent necessity for the formation of a British Film Authority.

Yours faithfully, LORD BRABOURNE, DAVID PUTTNAM, 43 Montpelier Walk, SW7.

Moving Highgate graves From Mr R. S. Nichols Sir, I would like to suggest that the graves and memorials of the fallen Action Committee members at Highgate Cemetery be removed to one area, which is always open to the public, as for example Bunhill Fields, so that the public may visit and pay their respects to them.

I wonder how many people who gaze at the massive head of Marx also know that the far greater benefactor to mankind, whose work has not resulted in the death of anyone, except negligence, or the due process of law, is also buried there—namely Michael Faraday.

Yours faithfully, R. S. NICHOLS, Chairman, Mill Hill and Hendon Historical Society, 29 Maxwellton Avenue, Mill Hill, NW7, April 10.

Peacetime conscription From Mr R. A. Hodgkin Sir, It is beginning to seem desirable, and it may eventually become essential, that all citizens should contribute, not only in taxes but increasingly in service, to the cost of a civilized society in the twenty-first century. Compulsion might be necessary, or strong inducements such as the availability of grants for tertiary education. (The former, pace Mr Wood (April 10) is not slavery; and the latter is not bribery.)

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## Stock Exchange Prices

## Quiet trading

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, April 10. Dealings End, April 30. Contingent Day, May 1. Settlement Day, May 1.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

1980/81 High Low Company Price Change Pence % P/E				1980/81 High Low Company Price Change Pence % P/E				1980/81 High Low Company Price Change Pence % P/E				1980/81 High Low Company Price Change Pence % P/E				1980/81 High Low Company Price Change Pence % P/E			
BRITISH FUNDS																			
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INVESTMENT TRUSTS																			
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000
PROPERTY																			
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RUBBER																			
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MISCELLANEOUS																			
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RECENT ISSUES																			
100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000	100000

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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

**Keep down the cost of industrial building**

**ATCOST**

27 Old Broad Street, London EC4A 3DF

### British banks ready to postpone Polish debt payment

By Michael Prest  
British banks are in favour of a proposal to postpone Poland's payments of second-quarter commercial debts. The proposal emerged during discussions between Poland's Western creditors in London.

The postponement plan envisages Poland continuing to pay interest on the approximately \$1,000m of capital due to be repaid in the current quarter. Poland had asked for suspension of interest and principal payments.

But it was reported last night that some American banks would prefer that interest on the debt be repaid at a higher, penalty rate. On the whole, the American banks have taken a harder line throughout the negotiations.

A taskforce of up to 20 banks, representing more than 400 banks, has hammered out the basis of an agreement with Bank Handlowy, the Polish foreign trade bank, which will be discussed at another meeting in London on Thursday. Poland owes the banks \$3,100m in principal this year.

Under last night's proposed deal, commercial loans of more than one year's maturity will be rolled over monthly between the end of March and the end of June. If agreement is reached on a full rescheduling of Poland's entire \$12,700m debt

to Western banks the rolling over could end earlier. But the size of Poland's short-term debt—for a year or less—is causing some concern. The interim plan does not cover these debts, which are believed to be held largely by Swiss and French banks. France has announced its willingness to make further credits to Poland. While the commercial banks have been agonising over their problems, finance ministers meeting in Basel for discussions on bolstering the International Monetary Fund's finances, said they thought agreement could be reached on rescheduling the \$4,400m official debt owed by Poland this year.

Representatives of various governments are due to meet their Polish counterparts in Paris at the end of April. Bilateral agreements between the countries might follow in May. Both banks and governments must start soon on a comprehensive rescheduling of Poland's debt for the rest of 1981 and beyond.

It is feared that not all banks will agree. Although the talks are being coordinated by the task force, final agreement will have to be made between the individual banks and Poland. It is pointed out that the agent for a syndicated loan cannot be responsible for payments to banks which are not a party to the agreement.

### Bankers agree to lend IMF \$1,200m

From Peter Norman, Basle, April 13  
The central bankers of the main western industrial countries today agreed in principle to lend 1,000 million special drawing rights (about \$1,200m) to the International Monetary Fund.

The loan, which is needed to build up the IMF's rapidly diminishing liquidity, is meant to flank the \$16,000m financing agreed recently between the fund and Saudi Arabia.

It is not immediately clear whether the bankers from the group of 10 countries and Switzerland would put the finishing touches to the deal during what remains of their two-day meeting, although one central banker remarked that the agreement reached was as good as final.

Britain is thought to be prepared to lend its part of the 1,000 million SDR package directly to the IMF, while other countries will lend to the fund and the IMF.

But the loan scheme will not solve the problems of the IMF. It now appears as if next month's meeting of the Fund's interim and development committees in Gabon could turn

into an acrimonious clash between the developing and the western industrialized countries.

Forces close to yesterday's meeting of finance ministers in London said today that the discussions spelled "bad news" for the least developed countries.

It would appear that the United States and Britain adopted an extremely reserved attitude towards proposals from M. René Monory, the French economics minister, to establish new facilities at the IMF to aid the poorest developing countries through their financial difficulties.

In other respects, however, the London meeting passed off smoothly.

Neither the London meeting nor that of the central bankers in Basel brought any clarity to the debate over a concerted lowering of interest rates. The United States, represented by Mr Donald Regan, the Treasury Secretary, maintained that high interest rates were necessary to combat inflation.

This position was backed by Herr Karl-Otto Pöhl of the German federal bank, who is embroiled in a controversy with Helmut Schmidt, Chancellor of West Germany, who, with the French would like to see interest rates fall.

trade-weighted index, measured against a basket of leading currencies, rose 1.0 to 102.1, its highest level since the present method of calculating the index was adopted at the beginning of February.

Easing tension in Poland and the Middle East and the stronger dollar hurt gold, which closed in London at \$471.50, down \$21 from Friday.

The pound fell to \$2.1520 at one stage during the day before recovering to close down 1.75 cents on Friday at \$2.1645, its lowest point since the beginning of April last year. But it was down only fractionally on the Continental currencies and its trade-weighted index fell just 0.3 to 98.9.

### High Street banks face mounting industrial action over unilateral pay award

## Lloyds forces staff to take 10 pc pay offer

By David Felton  
Lloyds Bank is implementing a 10 per cent pay offer to staff at the end of this month against the wishes of the Banking Insurance and Finance Union.

The news, given to delegates at the Bifu conference in Blackpool yesterday, was immediately greeted with a threat of industrial action in the industrial action, already planned, after Easter.

Other banks will follow suit, but may not pay the increase until next month. The bank's offer has been accepted by the Clearing Bank Union, but Bifu, its TUC-affiliated rival, is holding out for more.

Bifu has already called a 24-hour strike by 8,000 staff in banks and cash centres in several large provincial towns and the West End of London for Thursday next week in protest at the offer.

A ballot of about 500 data processors who work at Lloyds computer centre at Samson House in the City, has also been sanctioned. The results will be known next Tuesday, and if there is a majority for action, the staff will join the one-day strike.

About 30 staff in Lloyds' Registrar's department at Durrington, Surrey, who handle share registrations, are also to be balloted. The Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs will confer with its own members in Midland Bank to see whether they will join the Bifu action.

Mr John Hargraves, a Bifu assistant secretary, last night accused towns and the West End of London for Thursday next week in protest at the offer.

The survey also shows guarded optimism on the jobs front. More than 8 per cent of firms are forecasting an increase in labour over the next three months; 61 per cent believe they can keep their existing workforce, while those still shedding labour have fallen from 38 per cent to 31 per cent.

In spite of the encouraging news, chambers of commerce in the region insist that the recession has not yet bottomed out. Mr Geoffrey Jackson, vice-chairman of the West Midlands Regional Group of Chambers of Commerce, who carried out the survey, said: "Although at first sight some of the answers might suggest that the worst is over, a fuller analysis shows that the sharp decline in recent surveys is really only beginning to slow down."

However, in the House of Commons yesterday, Mr Len Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, claimed that the latest output figures for industry were "hard evidence" that the downturn could be at an end. In support of his claim he pointed to housing starts, which rose sharply in January and February.

Government statisticians are being more cautious. Manufacturing output in February, they say, "suggests some existing in the rate of decline". When oil extraction, mining, construction and utilities are included, the overall rise in output, during February was about the same as for manufacturing alone.

However, manufacturing output was still about 16½ per cent below the autumn 1979 level. More than two-thirds of the February increase in manufacturing output resulted from the engineering sector, the biggest, saw a further drop in output. But chemical output where changes often reflect overall economic activity, improved in February.

The increase in beer production is attributed to pre-Budget buying and steel output partly to restocking.

Mersey docks' £6m losses

By Michael Bailey  
Shipping Correspondent  
The Mersey Dock Company lost £6.5m last year, almost all in the form of dockage pay, preliminary results disclosed.

Of 1,000 dockers required to take voluntary severance by month's end, if Government support is to continue, £13 have so far applied, said chairman Sir John Page, who warned that without Government support, Mersey would run out of cash within months, a receiver would probably be called in and life would be far more unpleasant for far more people than under the present arrangements.

Of the company's 20,000 stockholders, nearly half hold fewer than 10 shares, the main reason for the company's financial problems is an advance leak about problems in an alternative-energy project.

Mr Frank Walker, New South Wales Attorney-General, told the state Parliament that a business watchdog body, the State Corporate Affairs Commission, was conducting a detailed analysis of trading on the Sydney stock market in shares of two companies involved in the Rundle oil shale project in Queensland.

Meanwhile, an Esso Australia spokesman confirmed that the fibre division, which would meet officials of the Queensland state government in Brisbane tomorrow to discuss the review of the scheme.

### Hopeful signs that worst of recession may be over

By Melvyn Westlake and Clifford Webb  
Some sections of British industry may be experiencing the first tentative signs that the recession has passed its worst point. But the picture is far from uniform, and output continues to fall in key sectors.

According to new Government figures, manufacturing industry has seen its first overall monthly rise in production since the autumn of 1979. After 15 months of continuous decline, manufacturing output rose in February by just under 1 per cent.

Hopes that this might presage an end to the decline are strengthened by evidence in the turning business confidence in the hard-hit West Midlands. A survey of the region shows that 17 per cent of firms are forecasting improved profitability, compared with 9 per cent in December.

At the same time, the number expecting a further deterioration in profits has fallen sharply from 71 to 48 per cent. Weak investment is still widespread, but for the first time in 18 months there is now some indication of improvement. About

11 per cent of firms have actually revised investment plans upwards, the survey shows, compared with only 6 per cent in June 1980.

The survey also shows guarded optimism on the jobs front. More than 8 per cent of firms are forecasting an increase in labour over the next three months; 61 per cent believe they can keep their existing workforce, while those still shedding labour have fallen from 38 per cent to 31 per cent.

In spite of the encouraging news, chambers of commerce in the region insist that the recession has not yet bottomed out. Mr Geoffrey Jackson, vice-chairman of the West Midlands Regional Group of Chambers of Commerce, who carried out the survey, said: "Although at first sight some of the answers might suggest that the worst is over, a fuller analysis shows that the sharp decline in recent surveys is really only beginning to slow down."

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The other partners, Central Pacific Minerals and Southern Pacific Petroleum, hold the mining leases for the shale deposit. Last week the companies announced that the economic viability of the project to produce synthetic crude oil from shale rock was being reassessed because of unexpected technological and geological problems.

The Opposition Labour Party has alleged that a leak of the problems had enabled people connected with the government to make illegal profits in share trading.

Under New South Wales law, insider trading is punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 (£5,300) or five years in jail. The share price of CPM and SPP have collapsed since the Esso announcement.



Sir John Page

than those with Europe, they could benefit more when the upturn came, "as come it must."

Trading loss before exceptional items was up from £1.8m to £3.9m last year; the main reason for the company's financial problems is an advance leak about problems in an alternative-energy project.

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### 2,500 fresh steel jobs in prospect

By Peter Hill  
Projects which are expected to lead to the creation of more than 2,500 jobs in steel closure areas are being examined by BSC (Industry), the job-creation subsidiary of the British Steel Corporation.

The company announced yesterday that projects under negotiation would be likely to qualify for more than £2m in training grants from a joint fund established between BSC (Industry) and the European Social Fund.

The purpose of the training grants fund, under which the European Social Fund matches an equivalent amount from BSC (Industry), is to encourage new industry in steel closure areas by offsetting the potentially high costs of in-house training.

Three companies yesterday announced projects in the steel closure areas of Corby and North Lanarkshire which will lead to the creation of more than 500 jobs. The three projects will receive training grants totalling £300,000.

Mr John Dunbar, chief executive of BSC (Industry) said: "We believe that training grants will play an important role in the regeneration of industry in steel areas. This is particularly the case when steelworkers have to learn new skills."

Explaining Warburg's readiness to sell after an approach from Pechiney, Mr G. Elliot, vice-chairman of Warburg and chairman of Brandeis, said that Brandeis' trading portfolio was now dominated by industrial metals and it was in the interests of traders to have maximum industrial rather than financial backing. Pechiney is especially strong in ferro-alloys where Brandeis has built up its expertise in recent years.

Some savings from the amalgamation of the steeling assets on the LME where Pechiney is represented through its Intel subsidiary are also expected.

It was Brandeis, at that time a private company, which provided Sigmund Warburg with a desk when he arrived in London in the 1940s. He subsequently purchased the shares of the family owners. The small stake, owned by RTZ, was acquired in the early 1950s.

Proceeds from the sale will be used in the group's mainstay of steeling business. The move follows the sale of its interest in the D'Arcy-MacManus advertising agency after its merger with the United States Masius group in 1977 but it continues to hold a number of investments outside its main banking business, including a 30 per cent interest in insurance brokers Stewart Wrightson.

Copies of the 1980 Annual Report of Citicorp can now be obtained from:

Citibank, N.A., 336 Strand, London WC2R 1HB, between the hours of 9.30am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Postal applications should be addressed for the attention of the Librarian.

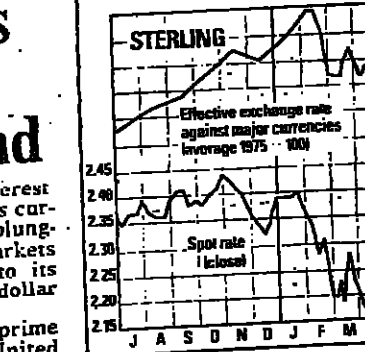
CITIBANK CITICORP

### Pound slips as dollar gains ground

Sharply higher dollar interest rates sent the United States currency soaring and gold plunging on world financial markets yesterday. Sterling sank to its lowest level against the dollar for more than a year.

Friday's increase in prime rates by two leading United States banks from 17 to 17½ per cent, which was followed by a similar move by several others, and yesterday's unexpected money hike figures gave a big lift to the dollar.

The dollar opened higher after gains over the weekend and remained firm all day, closing in London at DM-1.7035, up 1.76 pfennigs from Friday. Its



trade-weighted index, measured against a basket of leading currencies, rose 1.0 to 102.1, its highest level since the present method of calculating the index was adopted at the beginning of February.

Easing tension in Poland and the Middle East and the stronger dollar hurt gold, which closed in London at \$471.50, down \$21 from Friday.

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### PRICE CHANGES

ES	8p to 256p
Bank Pub	8p to 256p
at Clark	8p to 256p
& Co	8p to 256p
1p to 33p	
at Nat Res	25p to 800p

Hadon Carrier	12p to 200p
Secombe Mars	20p to 260p
Tace	3p to 24p
Traford Park	7p to 175p
Travis & Arnold	10p to 170p

Guthrie Corp	13p to 812p
Harrison Cros	13p to 862p
Horizon Travel	20p to 643p
Mercantile Hse	10p to 261p
Scotial	10p to 261p

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
80p	1.87	12.33	11.08
34.93	32.70	127.0	1.52
82.25	78.25	192.00	10.05
2.63	2.54	10.60	4.21
15.33	8.90	4.44	2.14
9.35	2.21	75.00	
11.48	10.90		
4.87	4.63		
115.50	109.50		
11.40	11.40		
12.00	1.33		
2380.00	2280.00		
493.00	468.00		
5.39	5.73		

THE POUND

### Hopes pinned on exclusive new fashion fibre with a silken touch

## Mantle of secrecy thrown over ICI fabric

ICI's fibre division, hit by more than 4,000 redundancies last year, is set to launch its first major textile product in a decade. The new fibre, which has been shrouded in secrecy, is designed to have the finish of silk but be machine-washable.

The finish was developed at the ICI Ponty pool plant in south Wales that bore the brunt of last year's redundancies. It has been launched at the Interstoff fashion and fabric exhibition in Frankfurt next month and initially production will be limited in an attempt to give the product a new version of polyester fibre, an exclusive image. The fibre is the first result of ICI's stated intention of moving

the division more towards consumer, rather than commodity, product development, a policy decided at the time of last year's redundancies.

ICI has not exhibited at Interstoff, one of the main textile showcases on the international fashion circuit, for five years. If the new fibre takes off, it appears British stores early next year. ICI expects that the material will be used mainly in blouses and underwear.

The company's fibre division was last profitable in 1974 and has been severely affected by rising energy costs. It produces Eri-Nylon and Terylene, both of which are facing fierce competition from Japanese-made lightweight polyesters.

### Warburg set to sell metal trade subsidiary

By Ronald Pullen  
Mercury Securities, the S.G. Warburg merchant banking group, is likely to sell the metal trading subsidiary which provided its legendary founder Sir Sigmund Warburg, with his introduction to London's financial markets in the late 1940s.

Talks are now going on with Pechiney Ugine Kuhlmann, the French chemicals and aluminium group, which could lead to the sale of Brandeis.

Brandeis, a subsidiary of Mercury's, around a quarter of Mercury's after-tax profits of £11.6m in the year ended March 1980.

The subsidiary is an important ring-fencing member of the London Metal Exchange and has scrap refining interests in the United States.

In common with other metal traders Brandeis has had an erratic record over the last few years, with profits swinging from a low of £323,000 in 1978 to £2,89m last year. This stems from the volatile activity on the LME and the cost of financing metal stocks during periods of high interest rates but Brandeis has sought to offset this through extending its trade activity to non-ferrous alloys and ore. According to its last published accounts at March 31, 1980 Brandeis had a net asset value excluding deferred tax of £24.8m.

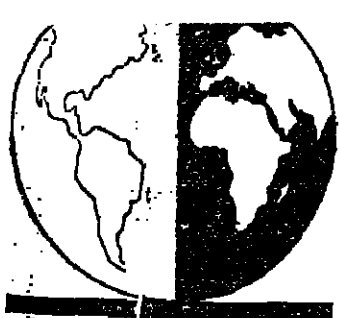
Explaining Warburg's readiness to sell after an approach from Pechiney, Mr G. Elliot, vice-chairman of Mercury and chairman of Brandeis, said that Brandeis' trading portfolio was now dominated by industrial metals and it was in the interests of traders to have maximum industrial rather than financial backing. Pechiney is especially strong in ferro-alloys where Brandeis has built up its expertise in recent years.

Some savings from the amalgamation of the steeling assets on the LME where Pechiney is represented through its Intel subsidiary are also expected.

It was Brandeis, at that time a private company, which provided Sigmund Warburg with a desk when he arrived in London in the 1940s. He subsequently purchased the shares of the family owners. The small stake, owned by RTZ, was acquired in the early 1950s.

Proceeds from the sale will be used in the group's mainstay of steeling business. The move follows the sale of its interest in the D'Arcy-MacManus advertising agency after its merger with the United States Masius group in 1977 but it continues to hold a number of investments outside its main banking business, including a 30 per cent interest in insurance brokers Stewart Wrightson.





## UK jobs worry in Philips reshaping

Parts of the United Kingdom operations of Philips, the Dutch electronics and electrical multinational, could be at risk in their widespread restructuring to cut 20,000 jobs—mostly in Europe—over the next two years. Britain is a key part of the Philips empire, accounting for 10 per cent of the company's world sales, as well as the same percentage of the total workforce.

The biggest anxiety over the British operation, which covers many sectors from kitchen appliances and lighting to colour television manufacture and defence equipment, is that its overall profitability is said to be below Philips' international average. With United Kingdom wage levels rising, the costs of production in Britain are now only marginally less than on the Continent where productivity levels are mostly higher.

Philips said in London last night: "It is too early to say what other action may be necessary in the United Kingdom apart from that already in train. Any such plans would first be discussed in the normal course of consultations with our employees."

The key question is whether any of the larger British operations is at risk as Philips looks for a radical reduction in plants duplicated in various countries. The company, for example, produces television tubes at nine European plants, and would like to reduce this to two.

One of the tube makers is Philips' Mullard subsidiary in Britain, sole producer of tubes in the United Kingdom until Sony

starts some tube production in Wales about the end of this year.

Mullard tube production is running at one million a year being used extensively by other United Kingdom television makers as well as going to Philips' own assembly factories.

Philips makes around 500,000 colour television sets a year in Britain, accounting for a quarter of the United Kingdom production of a sixth of Philips' European production.

Rationalization of Philips' colour television assembly in Britain—with a Low-cost factory to close in about a year—is already reducing jobs by 1,100 without reduction in production. Rationalization of glass and tube production has cut the workforce by another 850.

The television assembly is being located in one factory at Croydon, but even when Lowestoft is closed and all production is transferred, there will still be room for production expansion at Croydon. On television assembly Philips has been registering productivity increases of between 10 per cent and 15 per cent annually for several years.

Whether these rationalization moves may produce an impenetrable argument for maintaining, or even expanding, the United Kingdom tube making operation, together with television set assembly, remains to be seen. Around 75,000 British-made Philips sets are exported annually.

At Hamilton in Scotland Philips employs around 1,200. The factory is designated a key world production centre for lighting, fittings and electric shavers. Philips makes such designations when various factors, like the strength of a domestic market, most favours a factory as a key source for international markets. Hamilton, which also manufactures other small appliances like fan heaters, exports 40 per cent of its output.

Philips' main centre for production of larger kitchen appliances in Britain, is at Halifax in Yorkshire where there is a workforce of 600. This is a world production centre for tumble driers where 600 are employed. But there could still be a question mark over at least part of the Halifax operation.

Halifax also produces "front loader" washing machines for the United Kingdom and Irish markets. But Philips already gets a large proportion of its washing machines as well as much refrigeration equipment in Italy where high production volumes have kept selling prices comparatively low despite the high inflation rate.

But with Philips now having more than 15 production centres in Britain—including Pye factories around Cambridge, it seems unlikely that the British operation will go unscathed.

The jobs reduction envisaged will effectively reduce the Philips workforce throughout Europe by about 9 per cent overall.

Derek Harris

## Temporary curbs put on textile imports

Britain, France and West Germany have been permitted by the European Commission to limit imports of textiles originating in non-EEC countries that have been routed through member states. The action comes under a special Community provision to protect weak industries in member countries, which allows temporary trade barriers to be erected between them.

Britain will be allowed to limit imports of woven suits produced in Bulgaria until the end of June and West Germany to limit imports of cotton fabrics originating in China until the end of October. France can now restrict imports of certain knitted clothing which contain plastic material coming from Taiwan until the end of October and cotton fabrics produced in South Korea until July 31.

The measures follow similar limitations imposed by France on Japanese television sets earlier this year.

### Merchant banks call

The United Arab Emirates must restrict the expansion of Banks and branches but promote the creation of a few soundly-structured investment or merchant banks, the UAE Central Bank said in its first annual report. The UAE had many banks, bank branches, money-changers and financial companies. But the lack of genuine investment companies and merchant banks was both a cause and effect of the rudimentary state of the money and capital markets.

### Steel slowdown

Japanese crude-steel production fell last year for the first time in three years because of the domestic economic slowdown and an export slump, according to the manufacturers. The Japan Iron and Steel Federation said production in the financial year ending last month totalled 107.38 million tonnes a 5 per cent decline from 113.01 million tonnes the previous year after a drop in demand from the construction and civil-engineering industries.

### Mobil oil find

Oil has been found in the High Island area of the Gulf of Mexico, 108 miles south-east of Galveston, Texas, where the Mobil Corporation is developing a natural gas field. Partners with Mobil are Standard Oil Co. (Indiana), Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance, Texas Gas Transmission Co and Union Oil Co of California.

### Belgium output up

Belgium's seasonally adjusted industrial production index rose by 1.6 per cent in January from December but was 1.1 per cent below the January, 1980 level, according to the National Statistics Office in Brussels.

### China tourism rise

China earned \$617m (£284m) in foreign exchange last year from its expanding tourist industry, more than a third above the previous year, the official Guangming daily newspaper has reported.

### Moscow-Tokyo pact

The Soviet Union and Japan reached a new five-year trade and payments agreement to replace a previous one that ended last December. The formal signing is expected to take place in Moscow next month.

### Austrian prices up

Austria's preliminary March consumer price index last month stood at 126.9 points, 0.8 per cent above February but 7.2 per cent higher than in March 1980. The 1976 index equals 100.

### US coal talks

Negotiations between the United Mine Workers of America and the coal industry were resuming today in an effort to end the week-and-a-half old strike, according to a union spokesman in Washington.

### Italian output up

Italian industrial output, seasonally adjusted, rose a provisional 7.5 per cent in February, after a 1.2 per cent January fall. For the whole year, the index showed a 3.6 per cent fall from February 1980.

### BL-Mitsubishi link

Leyland, a British Leyland affiliate, and Mitsubishi are discussing plans to produce two or three tonne Japanese lorries in Nigeria. But Mitsubishi says the plans have not been completed.

### Trade deficit halved

Japan halved its trade deficit last year thanks to soaring exports, including a 41 per cent rise in vehicle shipments, the Finance Ministry said in Tokyo.

### Steel strike call

Metalworkers in the north of West Germany have asked their union's central committee to sanction a strike after the collapse of wage talks with employers.

## Abolition of training board urged

Engineering companies have called for the abolition of the Government industry training board and have made their support of any reconstituted body conditional.

The Engineering Employers' Federation which has 6,000 members, said that it would only support a new statutory board if it were controlled by the industry.

In its response to the Manpower Service Commission's review of training requirements the EEF said it was a "substantial proportion" of its membership considered that the Engineering Industry Training Board should be abolished. It claimed that the board had rendered it insensitive to the real needs of companies.

Noting that the Government had already declared its intention of retaining statutory boards in key areas—despite the employers' opposition—the EEF said that it would support a restructured board on which employers accounted for half the membership and held the chairmanship.

The EEF also stressed that its support for any new body would be conditional on the scope of the reconstituted training board being widened to encompass all companies employing engineering skills.

## Discord over Bonn's interest rate policy

From Our Own Correspondent Bonn, April 13

The West German government in Bonn and the country's independent Central Bank have fallen out over how to run the economy. Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, is pushing for a policy of lower interest rates which has met unexpected tough opposition from Herr Karl-Otto Pöhl, the president of the Federal bank.

Although government spokesmen in Bonn were today denying reports of a row between the two men, relations seem to have deteriorated over the past few weeks.

Herr Schmidt is under pressure from leftwing colleagues in the Social Democrat party to stimulate the economy in an attempt to prevent unemployment rising to an average of 1.3 million this year.

Herr Pöhl, who owes his present position largely to the support given to him in the past by the Chancellor, is adamant that battling inflation which is currently around 5.5 per cent, should be the main priority for policymakers.

In the Federal bank view, high interest rates are necessary to stifle inflation and to help the structural adjustment process that Germany must undergo if it is to get rid of its now huge balance of payments deficits.

The immediate cause of discord is the plan announced last week under which Germany and France will borrow the equivalent of 5,000 million European

currency units (about £2,700m) for leading at subsidised interest rates to small businesses and for energy saving projects.

It now seems as if the amount of interest subsidy may be as high as 2.5 per cent—a level which the Federal bank believes could prove to be a stimulus to inflation as well as provoke United States criticism.

Accordingly, when Herr Pöhl attended last week's cabinet meeting in Bonn he did not give his approval to the borrowing plans. Although these plans can go ahead without specific Federal bank authorisation, Herr Schmidt chose to show his displeasure the following day in an unusual way.

He disclosed that M Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister, had written to Bonn to protest at Germany's high interest rate levels. In return, Herr Schmidt chose to show his displeasure the following day in an unusual way.

He disclosed that M Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister, had written to Bonn to protest at Germany's high interest rate levels. In return, Herr Schmidt chose to show his displeasure the following day in an unusual way.

## 100,000 UK textile jobs go in a year

By Peter Hill Industrial Editor

More than 100,000 jobs disappeared in the British textile and clothing industries last year and 77 mills in the cotton and allied textiles sector closed permanently.

The latest survey of the industry published yesterday underlined the depth of the recession which the textile sector has experienced, and even the welcome decline in the volume of imports provided only qualified relief since imports share of the home market actually increased.

Figures published yesterday by the Textile Statistics Bureau showed that at the end of last year, employment in the textile industry had declined by 68,000 compared with a year earlier while in the clothing sector, employment was 35,000 down on levels of a year earlier.

With man-made fibre production and carpet manufacture, the worst-hit sector last year was the cotton and allied textile sector. Nearly half of the workers still employed in the sector at the year-end were on short-time.

## Recovery through productivity

From Mr Vani Borooah and others

Sir, Professor Minford's article (April 7) on inflation raises some interesting points. If inflationary finance is an alternative to raising revenue are the costs higher than if the revenue is raised by taxation or borrowing? Or is he merely saying that people spend their own money themselves, in which case it is hard to see how any role for the public sector could be justified?

More generally, inflation need not be the fault of the Government at all but the consequence of a broader dispute over the distribution of the national income. Taking a simple case, suppose households want 80 per cent of output and firms want 30 per cent. The chances are that neither will get its target share, but as they try to move towards them wages and prices will rise. Monetary expansion may be necessary to lubricate the system but it does not cause the inflation.

Over the past 15 years social pressures have increased the size of the public sector and we have had to pay more for our imports, reducing the proportion of output which can go to meeting profits and after-tax wages. This has generated periodic bouts of inflation which have probably further depressed profits and by reducing investment, cut back on the ability of the economy to pay

higher wages. A sustained recovery can only be expected if the productivity of labour starts to grow much more rapidly.

Yours faithfully,  
VANI BOROOAH,  
RICK VAN DER PLOEG,  
MARTIN WEALE,  
Department of Applied Economics,  
University of Cambridge,  
Sidgwick Avenue,  
Cambridge CB3 9DE,  
April 9.

From Mr Nigel F. B. Allington and Mr T. W. Taylor  
Sir, Professor Minford (April 7) has got us wrong in including us in his "dangerous and dishonest game".

We are neither Keynesian nor monetarist and it is possible for a practising economist to be neither and still believe in something. If Professor Minford would look at the statement as carefully before interpreting it as we did before signing it, he would find that what we subscribed to was that "there is no basis in economic theory or supporting evidence for the Government's belief that by deflating demand they will bring inflation permanently under control and thereby induce an automatic recovery in output and employment". We signed that statement because we believed it to be true and we still believe it to be true. Firstly, it is our judgment that the Government attempted to deflate on a down-

swing and still control it, allowing the off-balance, in the main private sector, nothing in economic support that no would subscribe to. There is no conclusive evidence for the Government demonstrating relationship between aggregate and the public sector borrowing, which achieved by the new money, does not inflationary, but rather stagflationary. Further, the Government has itself capable of the money supply. Thatcher's Government exception.

Of course, there are policies, but surely a matter for discussion. Finally, if Professor wishes, on another apparent political move he will do us the of discussing the matter beforehand. Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL F. B. ALLINGTON,  
T. W. TAYLOR,  
Department of Economics,  
University of Wales,  
Institute of Science and Technology,  
King Edward VII Avenue,  
Cardiff, CF1 3NU,  
April 7.

## The story of concrete

From Mr Peter Campbell

Sir, I was interested to read the letter sent to you by Mr Woolrich (April 6). Your correspondent supports the need for more programmes dealing with the work of engineers, presumably on television, and points to the lack of attention to technical history in our colleges and universities.

As secretary of the Institution of Structural Engineers History Study Group, I wrote to all the engineering faculties in the United Kingdom some time ago to ascertain the extent to which they were interested or involved in the subject of engineering history. All but two dismissed the matter of history on the specious grounds that they had more than sufficient problems with the syllabus they determine!

As an active member of the Concrete Society, I have for a long time urged that films on television that illustrate the best that has been achieved in structural architecture, and explain

why, in many instances, concrete receives bad publicity, would do much to improve public relations between designers and the population they seek to serve.

In this connexion, your readers may be interested to learn that some colleagues and I are in the process of setting up the first ever museum of the history of concrete at the Southern Industrial History Museum complex at Amberley near Arundel in Sussex.

It is planned to open the first exhibition in the early summer, and it is hoped that students, historians and members of the lay public will find this fascinating story, which goes back in time to c500 BC, a worthy addition to this important new museum. Yours faithfully,  
PETER CAMPBELL,  
Campbell Reith & Partners,  
Chartered Civil, Structural and Marine Engineers,  
Grove House,  
100 High Street,  
Hampton,  
Middlesex TW12 2LU,  
April 8.

## Pioneering d

From Mr P. B. E. Thon  
Sir, The men of the age who built the appearance of the countryside to be neglected, as V (April 6) implies.

The Institution of Engineers is at the engaged in publishing which will lighten the surrounding Victorian engineers such as J. Trobe Bateman and Hawksley. Today, these unknown outside the industry, yet many of dams, some nearly 100 years after they were high (for instance, the W. District) are still in use. This achievement, given sketchy knowledge, theories and primitive the time, does indeed greater fame. Yours faithfully,  
P. B. E. THON,  
Director (Publications),  
The Institution of Civil Engineers,  
26-34 Old Street,  
London, EC1P 1JH.

## British Telecom to start high-speed desk-to-desk message service

A high-speed desk-to-desk message service is to be started next year by British Telecom, the telecommunications arm of the Post Office. Users of the service will be able to type letters, internal memoranda and other messages on their terminals as if the terminals were ordinary typewriters, and then send the correspondence directly to the recipient over the telephone network.

Announcing this yesterday, Mr Peter Benton, managing director of British Telecom, said that his organization's primary role in the new service would be to provide the network.

"We are looking to British industry to supply the terminals," he said. "With Teletex we are creating a new office equipment market with vast potential and we are inviting suppliers to take advantage of this exciting opportunity."

The word "Teletex" is used to describe the interconnection of text-handling terminals via a telecommunications network. "At the start, Teletex will use the public telephone network and the packet-switched data service," Mr Benton said. "Shortly afterwards we shall provide connections with the telex network, enabling Teletex customers to communicate directly with the 90,000 telex terminals in Britain and also with the one million telex users overseas."

Worldwide Teletex standards have recently been agreed by the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT). These include a technical recommendation for terminals. Its aim is to ensure that users will have freedom in the way they type their Teletex correspondence as they have in using an electric typewriter.

In its simplest form, the terminal can be an electric typewriter having an ability to communicate. A more complex terminal can be a visual display unit able to perform word-processing and other specialized business functions.

Text can be prepared in A-size pages in either upright or horizontal format. When prepared, the message is held in a store in the terminal. The message can be sent immediately or delayed for later transmission. The store will also receive and hold incoming messages for display when required.

"Now that there are international standards for Teletex," Mr Benton commented, "I am sure that it will develop rapidly around the world. We

### Technology News



Mr Peter Benton: "office equipment market with vast potential."

are discussing arrangements for an international Teletex service with a number of countries including West Germany, Sweden and Belgium. In due course we shall be able to offer an international Teletex service giving users direct desk-to-desk message communication to many countries."

### Standard system

A standard design of computer system—expressed as functional specification—has been completed for the management and accounting aspects of the direct-works departments of local authorities in a collaborative project which has involved 155 such authorities in England, Wales and Scotland.

Local authorities will use it to help them to comply with the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980, which broadly imposes a requirement that authorities should operate their direct-labour departments as trading organizations, quoting for jobs and charging on the basis of those quotations.

The project has been coordinated by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, and the specification was prepared with local authority consultation by Logica, the London-based computer consultancy.

The main types of work covered in the specification are highways, housing, building, engineering, parks and sewers. Separate parts of the system

handle work entry; costing analyses and management accounting; and work programming and control.

Local authorities have contributed up to £1,800 each towards the cost of the design, with the Department of the Environment adding £30,000. The next stage for the authorities will be the implementation of the design; this can be done in several ways.

### Research centre

The recently-launched International Electronic Publishing Research Centre will initially be a special-interest group of PIRA, the printing-industries research association based at Leatherhead, Surrey. Chief executive will be Mr Brian Blunden, director of PIRA's printing and electronic publishing division.

Six objectives have been set for the new centre. These are: 1. to carry out technical, techno-economic, behavioural and market research with the aim of assisting publishers, product development and suppliers;

2. to carry out research into electronic publishing on a co-operative, multi-client or exclusive basis for subscribing members;

3. to provide "hands-on and test-bed facilities" for the use of new systems;

4. to evaluate systems, software and equipment;

5. to act as an international focal point for the results of relevant studies;

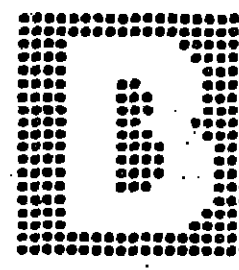
6. to provide research reports, seminars, conferences and exhibitions.

Among those involved in the formation of the new centre are Mr Gordon Graham, chairman and chief executive of Butterworths, who is chairman of the board of management of the centre; Mr Robert Maxwell, of Pergamon Press; and Dr Georges Anderia, of the European Commission. The target is to plan 100 subscribing member companies during the first twelve months.

### NRDC buys shares

The National Research Development Corporation's small company innovation fund is acquiring 30 per cent of the ordinary share capital of Shapecut Machines, of Woodley, Reading, Berkshire. Shapecut has developed a range of profile cutting machines and electronic optical-scanning (line-following) control units.

Kenneth Owen



## BNP reports record progress

Extracts from the Statement by the Chairman, The Lord Hunt of Tanworth GCB

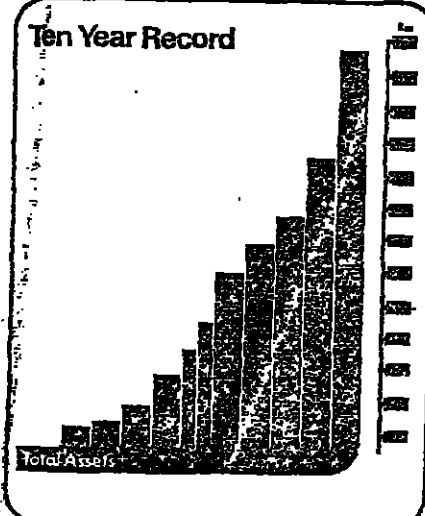
Against a troubled economic background it is very satisfactory to report that BNP Limited had another record year.

Total assets grew from £948m to £1,269m and the level of all other activities increased. Shareholders' funds increased from £39m to £59m. Including the dividend from our associated bank, United Bank for Africa, profits before tax increased from £5.7m to £7.4m and after tax from £5.1m to £6.7m.

Our sterling operations had an excellent year and the volume of business increased on average by 30%. Eurocurrency operations increased by some 15%. In the commodity markets we have continued to identify sound business opportunities. Leasing activities flourished during the year and doubled in volume. An interesting new development has been the formation of a new Eurobond and notes unit, with staff drawn both from BNP Ltd and from BNP's International Division in Paris.

Together with our retained profits a subordinated loan arranged in conjunction with our parent bank in France will enable us to increase further our commercial lending activities in London.

Our customers include some of the biggest and most important firms in the country. Our representative offices in Birmingham, Edinburgh and Leeds have continued to attract good business and we have maintained close liaison with



the BNP branch in Jersey. A major event of 1980 was the opening in Manchester of our first full-scale branch outside London. This step reflects not only our confidence in potential business in the North-West but also in our ability to increase our share of it. In London our Knightsbridge branch continues to show most satisfactory growth.

In my first year as Chairman it is my privilege to pay tribute to my predecessor, Sir Patrick Reilly was Chairman of BNP Limited for 11 years, a period of great expansion in the Bank and we owe a great deal to him for his wisdom and untiring zeal on the Bank's behalf.

## Banque Nationale de Paris Limited

8-13 King William Street, London EC4P 4HB. Telephone: 01-626 5678, Telex: 883412 BNP LNB

Also in Knightsbridge, Birmingham, Leeds, Edinburgh and Manchester

BNP Group Head Office: 16 Boulevard des Capucines, Paris 75009

Copies of the 1980 BNP Limited Annual Report and Accounts are available from the Company Secretary

سكوتيا للادارة



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Glaxo regains its glamour

Not going to move off its five-year plateau this year. But yesterday's £5.3m profit recovery to £35.6m interim stage adds to the excitement of a share which is looking for prospects on the drugs front in a sea of gloom.

Price closed 16p up at 338p, a new 12-month high of almost 50 per cent. That rise is very largely due to the fact that a new ulcer drug, ranitidine, a new ulcer drug which could make significant gains in a £200m-plus world market now monopolized by Smith & Kline's drug.

The figures, which would have been higher on stable exchange rates, the signs of a possible reversal in the downward drift of return from Glaxo's mainstream products. Trading has edged upwards at last to 101, helped by improved prices and productivity while Glaxo claims some improvement in a 12 per cent gain to £331m.

It injected Zinacef seems to have been competitive squeeze on the cephalosporin field, while States clearance for Ventolin, an anti-asthmatic drug, should help lift trending higher and to ease use as investors wait for Ranitidine to mark.

This year could reach £75m to a 1977 peak of £87m, and fully-taxed p/e ratio of around 15 of under 4; per cent assuming dividend increase in line with m is clearly ambitious.

### Burton Group Back on an even keel

A bouquet, not a brickbat for Heddewick Grumbar, or rather its former retailing team: it seems to have come closest in guessing the interim pre-tax profits of The Burton Group.

Heddewick went for £9m for the six months to February; Burton in fact made £8.7m against most broking estimates of £8m to £6m. This is, moreover, a "clean" profit, unencumbered by exceptionalities. In the same month of 1980 the comparative figure was £9.3m. For the year to August, 1980, the figure has been restated at £12.6m, down from an original £13.1m.

Burton did as well as it did despite a sales gain of only 5 per cent to £124m because it has got to grips with loss-makers and laggards. The group has nearly completed the concentration of manufacturing capacity into only two factories employing 750 people against 14 with 13,500 in 1970; it has disposed of most of the shareholding in the French division, stemming losses but making no profit. Evans Mail Order has been sold. Post, Haste and J. Greenrobes have been sold. Ryman is making a little money. It may be kept, but if it fails to continue improving it too will go. It has sales of £20m a year.

Finally, borrowings are down to £16m from £44m at the beginning of the financial year and should fall further. It all seems to point to profits of around £14m for the full year, and the shares responded with a 2p rise to 137p, a new 1981 "high" where the yield is 5.7 per cent.

At first glance the good news is out: the shares have had their rise and other recovery stocks like Woolworth and Debenhams offer more tempting returns. Retail business is still flat and prospects are said to be "uncertain". But Burton is winning market share, and it still has only around 5 per cent of the menswear market and a mere 2 per cent of womenswear.

Margins are thought to offer much scope for improvement. The group has also avoided continuous "sales" and now keeps stocks under tight control. The excitement of a "recovery" may now be over but the retailing skills of the Burton board are not in doubt, and the shares seem worth keeping for eventual retail upturn.

### Portland

Portland Cement seems to be taking more sanguine view of the present both competitors and outside of the industry.

However, it followed the broad pattern. A bumper first half made usually clement winter weather and a cent price rise gave way to a second half when industry tumbled by 18 per cent.

Domestic profits, fell by nearly 5m before interest in the second over the year it reckons to have gained market share and the premium up from £15.1m to £16.9m with expectations.

The dividend unchanged on the



Carpenier, chairman of Rugby have capital the shares yield 7.9 in 85p and the fully-taxed p/e of 12.

Relative optimism about 1981 is hopes of recovery in the second as they are talking about a drop of 10p in cement deliveries after a recent fall.

Reason for optimism is that the operations, mainly Australia's form better this year after 1980's in profits to £2.9m pre-interest. It also been spending heavily in its modernizing and reducing its in cement activities.

Given the present state of the industry, a more moderate rise of 11p per cent and the cement deliveries will be up again this year it is hard to say will match last year's though the balance sheet is sound and offers a reasonable yield and

### St Piran

#### Mr Raper's blatant challenge

In bidding for St Piran at well below the price laid down by the Takeover Panel, Mr James Raper has again confronted the panel with a blatant challenge.

Previous failures to comply with the panel's rulings have mainly been because of inability to pay the required price. But Mr Raper and Gasco Investments, his Hong Kong vehicle, have now confronted the authorities with the difficulty all rule-makers dread: what to do with someone who ignores you.

The panel has already used many of the weapons at its disposal, including asking The Stock Exchange to consider suspending the St Piran listing. This the Stock Exchange did, with the result that locked-in shareholders are being offered less than they might have got for their shares on the open market. The fact that the Stock Exchange must abide by its own rules to preserve an orderly market may even work in Gasco's favour: it can buy control of St Piran cheaply.

But difficult though the position now is, the authorities are not without recourse. The battle could now shift from the self-regulation front to the legal one. The panel and the Department of Trade will obviously look at the provisions of the Companies Acts, among which are disenfranchisement of shares, resort to the courts to try and prove conduct prejudicial to the interests of shareholders, forced sale of shares, and regulations by the court of a company's affairs. St Piran shareholders can take action themselves.

## Business Diary: Vestey's master mariner • Small beer

It may be a little late for the tax loop-hole which they managed to dig vast amounts of for more than 60 years, but they were not unbothered.

With his cousin Lord Rotherham, head of an international and retail emporium, includes the Dewey chain, is expected to be the most important in British shipping.

Edmund of the General British Shipping has raised eyebrows in the world.

He already vice-president of the Swire, but the from the number two top is seldom auto-

ected that he might content to leave his the GCBS at that, the organization its AGM on May 23 retain that Vestey's president will appear

hole which the ed was closed in the t. But Edmund is no controversy—four he cut off a grant company to a Persian Sussex University graduates from the d disrupted a hunt of Eagles. The ed was not in the disruption; the ter was Edmund's son



Is this the way forward for the brewing industry? Recession Special is a low strength, low alcohol mild brewed by the Canterbury Brewery run by the brothers Taylor, Anthony and Simon.

The last Budget rises put between 4p and 10p on the pint at a time when consumption was falling anyway. So the Taylors decided to brew a cheap low strength special to take advantage of the lowest excise rates.

At around 40p a pint in some 30 free houses and the two pubs owned by the brewery in Kent, Recession Special (its label is shown above) certainly undercuts their two other brews costing up to 30p a pint more.

The duo have been in the brewing business for two years in the Pallo, the bareback horse race round the main square. Their first was the sea with a fish swimming in it ("Dolphin natural, crowned royal, nauty in sea azure on ground argent").

The occasion was the presentation to Italy's motor racing press of the Metro, due to go on sale in the country from June 6. Similar events are taking place elsewhere in Europe this week.

Sergio Mla, Leyland Italia's managing director, hopes to sell 18,000 Metros before the end of the year, which should see overall sales of BL models double to 38,000.

The target is 40,000 Metros in 1981, which should be 6.1 per cent of the Italian market for cars in the 1,000 cc range.

Geoffrey Lee, who edits one of the many financial newsletters which abound these days, has been nagging me ever since I came to the paper about his somewhat unusual method of recommending mining stocks a year ago.

Finance Monitor, the letter Lee runs from a small office in Temple Chambers, has been on a selection of share recommendations decided by the Chinese fortune-telling method which involves throwing around yellow sticks and checking the results off on charts.

"You may be interested to see how accurate the I Ching has been in predicting profits on first 12 tips", Lee writes in the latest issue, in much the same vein as he has in the past. And indeed there are profits, but before you throw away the calculator and rush out for a pack of Tarot cards, read on. The top 12 shares which Lee lists include such well known names as Anglo American, De Beers, and RIZ, hardly the stuff of which gambles are made.

What is more, the companies in this exceptional list all gained their creditable profits by selling before the slump in gold share prices of the last couple of months, a feat accomplished by many other investors who reached their decisions on what to buy and when to sell through more conventional means.

Our commodities man, Michael Prest, tells me that he views the I Ching portfolio as no better or worse than any of the many others around at the moment, and certainly no improvement on the advice you would receive from a stock broker.

The Industrial Development Advisory Board has gained a member with technical background to join the merchant bankers, accountants and smattering of trade unionists who make up its ranks.

Polish-born Adolf Frankel, chairman of Stevel Industries has joined the IDAB for a two-year term.

The board scrutinizes and recommends the level of state funding for key investment projects which are agreed under the terms of the Industry Act.

Among the projects which the board will consider—assuming that it gets that far—will be Nissan Datsun's plans to construct a car manufacturing plant in Britain.

Frankel became chairman of Stevel 15 months ago after being managing director for 10 years.

Frankel's earlier career was heavily oriented towards advanced mechanical engineering design and development.

Other members of the IDAB include Gavin Laird of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, and Christopher Hogg, chairman of Courtalds.

Have they got the right man in the job? A series of advertisements bearing the words "Ronald Biggs seen in Rio" has just been published in Australia. The advertisements feature a gentleman who looks the spitting image of Biggs wearing a pair of jeans and a hat, and a series of under-the-jawline under-

the face of the real version, they might also have suggested he was in need of a good pair of braces.

David Hewson

Michael Prest

## Poland's debts—a headache for the West



A Warsaw stall-holder stands sentinel over her empty trays: a victim of economic uncertainty and confusion.

Representatives of more than 400 Western banks are due to meet their Polish debtors in London again on Thursday in another attempt to reach agreement on the repayment of Poland's massive debt. But it is now clear that the problem of rescheduling the Communist member's obligations will not end with this set of negotiations. The banks and governments (which are also big creditors) are looking to 1982 and 1983 when more Polish loans should mature.

It is generally accepted that Poland is in a state of undeclared default. The creditor banks and governments have still not calculated the precise figures, but they broadly concur with Poland's own estimates made at the end of last year. The Polish Government then said that it owed Western banks \$12,700m, and governments and their credit agencies another \$10,400m.

Although it was known at the end of 1980 that Poland would have difficulty meeting its debts this year, the first formal warning of a failure to pay came about three weeks ago. After paying the \$830m due in the first quarter, Poland began informing banks and governments that it could not pay anything in the second quarter.

A key part of the present talks, therefore, is whether to suspend these payments—put at \$1,000m in principal and interest—until the end of June.

But that only begs the question of what happens between June and December, not to mention next year and 1983. Debt to Western banks due for capital repayment this year amounted to about \$3,100m. That has now been reduced by the amount paid in the first three months.

At the top of the maturing loans, however, there is as much again in interest payments. In total, therefore, Poland's true debt to the banks this year is more than \$6,000m.

At the last count 426 banks were involved in 12 Western countries. Most of the leading British banks are exposed, with Barclays Bank International (BBI) and Lloyds Bank International (LBI) the biggest lenders. Poland was scheduled to repay some \$220m in capital this year, and roughly the same

amount in interest, to British banks.

In fact, Britain is fairly well down the list of lenders to Poland. West Germany, the United States, and France are owed principal of \$6,740m, \$5,750m, and \$2,750m respectively this year. Other creditors are Austria, Belgium, Italy, Holland, Switzerland, Japan and Canada.

Coordination of all these governments and banks is a big problem. The banks have formed a task force consisting of two banks from each creditor country, but since not all countries have agreed on its representatives, the task at present numbers only between 16 and 20 banks. Which banks will speak for their national groups in 1982 and 1983 is the subject of recently convened discussions. The British members are LBT and BBI.

Apart from these two British banks, other leading creditor banks include Chase Manhattan, Citibank, Bank of America, Dredner Bank, Deutsche Bank,

and the main French institutions. There is also a host of smaller banks which have been swept up in the crisis because they were minor participants on syndicated loans. The banks are still working out exactly who is involved and how much they have at risk.

As if such a variety and complexity of banks relations was not enough, the interests of governments also have to be considered. About 50 per cent of commercial loans are guaranteed by governments. Apart from not wanting to pay out millions to the banks in lieu of debts in default, governments themselves are at risk on a huge scale. Both parties, banks and governments, must conduct separate sets of negotiations which arrive at the same conclusion.

If such an agreement, or coordinated set of agreements, is to be reached, banks and governments need to be satisfied that Poland can repay.

Whatever arrangements are made to see the country over its immediate difficulties—hard enough in the present troubled economic and financial circumstances—they will mean little if a similar crisis erupts next year. The framework for discussions is therefore a two or three-year programme of rescheduled debts and economic stability in Poland.

The Poles put forward a programme for 1981 in the beginning of March. It estimated total capital repayments due this year at \$7,500m, of which \$3,100m was owed to banks and the rest to government.

The current account payments deficit was \$3,400m, giving an external financing requirement of \$10,900m. This was to be met by \$3,400m of net export credits, and by rescheduling commercial and official debts. Another \$1,000m bridging loan was intended to smooth the process.

Since then Poland has asked for a moratorium on repayments of all principal and

interest during the second quarter. The likelihood is that the country's creditors will agree, partly because they have little choice, and partly because they would rather defer debts than make fresh loans which would simply meet immediate obligations.

Some banks are also afraid that money lent to Poland would be used to meet debts to the Soviet Union, mainly incurred last year, and to other Comecon members.

But the strategic problem is how far into the future a rescheduling agreement should reach. The banks will have to sort that problem out before they meet the Bank Handover. Poland's foreign trade bank, on Thursday.

The American banks are particularly reluctant to make commitments to helping in the short term if subsequent years' debts remain unsecured. By contrast, the European banks and governments, especially France and West Germany, have been more flexible, and announced their willingness to make now credits if conditions are agreed.

Conditions are a sensitive matter. Not only is Poland much the biggest international banking crisis, dwarfing those of Zaire and Turkey, but it is the first outside the International Monetary Fund, and in the Eastern block. However, much goodwill the Poles show, there must be serious doubts about their freedom to negotiate a stabilization programme without annoying the Soviet Union.

In the great confusion and uncertainty at present reigning in Poland, the sight of Western banks dictating conditions for the repayment of loans entered into by an unpopular government might not be well received.

The dreadful irony is that many bankers were willing to lend to Poland because they argued settlement of the debts was backed by the Soviet Union. Somewhat contradictorily, they also claimed that the loans promoted détente.

Thursday's meeting will be seeking a solution which secures the debt without antagonizing the Soviet Union, the Polish government and party, or Solidarity.

## Why Europe's recession may be worse than expected

### David Blake

Interest rates, exchange rates and the price of oil. High interest rates in the United States have led to a surge of strength for the dollar. Its value against the mark has gone up by over 20 per cent over the 15 months since the start of 1980. During the first three months of this year, the dollar has risen by 11 per cent against the German currency.

Devaluation is always bad for inflation. But it is particularly important when a currency falls against the dollar, because it has led to a surge of strength for the dollar. Its value against the mark has gone up by over 20 per cent over the 15 months since the start of 1980. During the first three months of this year, the dollar has risen by 11 per cent against the German currency.

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Germany is caught in a trap. In order to keep up the value of the mark in the foreign exchange markets it has to have high nominal interest rates. This in turn is forcing it into a position where it has very high real interest rates. So in monetary terms, the country which has one of the most successful and inflation records in the world, is being forced to pursue one of the toughest interest rate policies.

Some economists in international organizations suggest that every one percentage point on interest rates knocks about a quarter of a percentage point off a country's output. On that basis alone, the loss of German output caused by the increase in interest rates early this year must be between half and three quarters of a per cent of gross domestic product.

But the damage does not stop there. There is the blow to domestic demand which comes from the loss of real income caused by the increase in domestic oil prices in the European countries, most of which have moved in step within the European Monetary System. Money has been transferred out of European hands as their terms of trade have worsened. That is one weakening factor on demand and output.

At the end of last year, the OECD estimated that 1981 would see a tightening of fiscal policy throughout the 24 nations which make it up. Policy changes by the seven biggest governments were expected to cut output by just over 1 per cent. When that forecast was made it did not seem a particularly tough policy. After all, the crude price of oil had fallen from \$35 a barrel to \$20, and government deficits looked likely to increase because recession pushed up unemployment pay and depressed revenue.

It is now beginning to seem that the tightening of fiscal policy will cut output more than first thought. And that policy is being tightened further.

In Belgium, a new austerity package has been announced to deal with the economic crisis. Britain's Budget was tougher than seemed likely at the end of 1980.

Germany, which had planned to have the loosest attitude to fiscal policy this year is coming under increasing internal pressure for change. There is now open warfare between the Government in Bonn and the Bundesbank in Frankfurt.

Over the past week, Herr Karl-Otto Poehl has backed United States reluctance to cut interest rates against the wishes of his Government. And as the bank has issued severe warnings of the dangers if the German Government deficit is not brought under greater control.

All of these pressures for a tightening of fiscal policy are having their effect. Business confidence throughout Europe, but most notably in Germany, has been declining this year. The recession in Europe is unlikely to bottom-out before the autumn. And as the inflationary consequences of the drop in the value of European currencies feeds through, pressures to tighten still further could mount.

Recession has crept more slowly over Europe in the past two years than it did in 1974-5. But it is beginning to look as if the loss of output and employment will be as severe as the last time around.

With the worries of a new surge in inflation of the kind which followed the last recovery strong in people's minds, the prospects for a sustained upswing look slim indeed.

## Broadstone Investment Trust Limited

Managed by J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited

The Annual General Meeting was held at 120 Cheapside, London EC2 on Monday, 13 April, 1981 at 2.30 p.m.

The following is a summary of the Report by the Directors for the year ended 31 December 1980.

	1980	1979	% Change
Total Revenue (see below)	£1,844,063	£1,662,689	+10.9%
Revenue after taxation and expenses	£1,044,155	£ 940,628	+11.0%
Earnings per Ordinary Share	7.35p	6.59p	+11.5%
Ordinary dividends for the year net per share	7.10p	6.35p	+11.8%
Net asset value per 20p Ordinary Share	265.4p	194.0p	+36.8%

The comparative figures for 1979 have been restated to exclude non-recurring income received that year as a result of the removal of dividend restraint.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretaries, J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited, 48 St. Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4EJ.







## FINANCIAL NEWS

## High interest costs and falling demand hit Erith

By Michael Clark

A downturn in activity in the second half has left the Erith-based merchant slightly down on last year's performance.

Full-year figures of the London-based group show a profit of £1.65m to £1.4m on turnover of £22.5m, a 12 per cent increase on the £1.55m of 1979.

In spite of the shortfalls, the board has proposed a final dividend of 5.7p, a 5.5p increase on the 5.4p of 1979.

up for the shortfall in profits with the share price responding 9p to 80p yesterday.

In his statement accompanying the figures, Mr Gordon Fisher, the chairman, blamed high interest rates and a decline in demand in the second half for the shortfall in what is traditionally the group's stronger half.

While declining to put a figure on the group's current borrowings, Mr Fisher said that it was continuing to strive to reduce its overdraft, which last year saw interest charges more than double at £378,000.

The group's second half performance, which showed only a

12 per cent increase on the first half, was in stark contrast to the previous year when profits in the second six months jumped by more than 60 per cent on the interim period.

Margins came under further pressure despite the increase in turnover and the chairman admitted that volume had also shown signs of strain.

Included in the figures is an exceptional item of £1m previously held for deferred tax but now no longer required.

Looking to the current year, the chairman confirmed that business was still not as buoyant as he would like, but added that things were beginning to look up.

## NCC sells 29.9pc stake in Petrocon

By Philip Robinson

Mr Graham Ferguson, chairman of NCC Energy, which is taking a 15.4 per cent stake in the US group Simplicity Patterns, has sold its strategic 29.9 per cent stake in Petrocon.

The sale of 1,765,580 shares was at 32p. Last July, NCC topped up its holding in Petrocon by buying 20 per cent of the shares in a dawn raid at 36p. NCC will receive £564,985 from the deal.

The energy group has sold 19.9 per cent of the shares to the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation (ICFC), 5.5 per cent to an subsidiary London Atlantic Investment Trust, and 25.580 to Mr Peter Hodgson, chairman and managing director of Petrocon.

As a result, Mr Hodgson will own 8 per cent of the company. Madgel Ltd, a private investment company in which Mr Hodgson owns a third of the shares, controls 12.7 per cent of Petrocon, a stake it bought from John Swire & Sons last August.

Earlier this month, Petrocon reported a pre-tax loss of £17,997 for the year to December 1980 against a profit of £152,588. After below-the-line extraordinary items of £392,302, the retained loss was £517,913 against a profit last time of £14,805.

The group, which has not paid a dividend since the first half of 1979, announced it had passed the final dividend. A total of £80,415 relating to redundancies and severance payments.

In mid-January, Mr James Pound, co-founder of the group, resigned. In a board reshuffle, Mr Ralph Messent left the main board but remained managing director of the group's Offshore Drilling Supplies operation.

## Crown House puts its case

By Michael Clark

Crown House, in its revised offer document, lays the blame for Denbyware's profits decline on its board's failure to adopt new marketing techniques.

Mr Patrick Edge-Partington, chairman of Crown House, urges Denbyware shareholders to accept the latest offer of 124p and valuing the group at £5.3m, which would give them an increase in income of some 150 per cent. However, shares of Denbyware remained unchanged yesterday at 125p.

According to Mr Edge-Partington, the new offer takes into account that negotiations in hand for the sale of Denbyware's 50 per cent stake in International Ceramics for a consideration thought to be around £2m. Since International Ceramics last year made a contribution of some £750,000 any benefit from the sale would be materially out-



Mr Patrick Edge-Partington, chairman of Crown House.

weighed by the loss of such a contribution, he added.

The offer document also underlines what it believes is Denbyware's weakness in marketing. In contrast, the

marketing abilities of its competitors had achieved much more favourable results.

Since 1976 Denbyware's pre-tax profits have declined from a record £1.5m to a little over £600,000 last year. Indeed, until Denbyware can develop a proper marketing strategy its profits will continue to decline in relation to those of its competitors.

Moves aimed at stopping Crown House's advances have included the revaluation of its factory at Denby. But Crown House says that this is only appropriate if Denby's tableware interests are producing a satisfactory return from the use of this factory. But so far, Mr George Robinson, chairman of Denbyware, has failed to forego adequate profits from its tableware interests, making the basis of valuation hypothetical and inappropriate, the document concluded.

## Burnett &amp; Hallamshire lifts stake in Brint

By Michael Clark

Burnett & Hallamshire, the mining equipment group, resumed its recent spending spree yesterday when it increased its stake in Brint Investments, the energy related investment group.

Burnett increased its stake from 4 per cent to 23.2 per cent by purchasing 900,000 shares for cash from Temple Investment & Finance.

Mr George Helsby, chairman of Burnett, who is joining the board of Brint, said that the purchase was a natural extension of the group's business. Brint is heavily involved in oil, coal and gas exploration. However, he declined to mention the size of the cash consideration.

Mr Helsby said that the deal was regarded by Burnett as a long-term investment although he did not rule out the possibility of a full-scale bid later. But he emphasised that a full review and further consultation by the board would be required first.

As a result of the sale, Temple Investment & Finance's stake has been reduced to 36.6 per cent.

News of the increased stake failed to move the share price, which slipped 5p to 111p.

The group's expansion policy has accelerated sharply in recent months after last year's successful rights issue to raise £11m. Burnett is currently capitalised at about £95m.

Since the rights issue the group has spent more than £6.6m on various acquisitions with the emphasis on the United States. In January, it bought Rushcliffe Fuels and Pineholt developments for £1.6m followed by Clift Oil of Maidstone for an undisclosed sum. In March, it paid £4.5m cash for a Pennsylvania coal field and two weeks later it added a Californian property deal valued at £530,000.

## BSR hopes to return to profit in second half

By Our Financial Staff

BSR, the record changing consumer products group, has dropped sharply into the red in the second half of the current year.

In the year to January 10, the group saw profits of £34,000 plunge to a loss of £17,666m. On a cost basis the loss was £23,4m.

But Mr John Ferguson, the chairman, tells shareholders in his annual report that although sales for the first two months of this year were lower than for the same time in 1980 there are grounds for believing that the level of activity in practically all companies in the group will continue to improve.

He says that in the sound reproduction division, all factories are now working a five-day week. Except for the small

engineering companies within the consumer products division, all factories are working normally. Production levels of leading items such as electric kettles, saucepans, teapots, vacuum cleaners and electrical accessories have been raised appreciably.

Mr Ferguson says that although the opening half will not be a loss, it is expected that the second half will record a return to profitability, if sterling does not appreciate over its current levels.

The BSR figures show that of this year were lower than for the same time in 1980 there are grounds for believing that the level of activity in practically all companies in the group will continue to improve.

He says that in the sound reproduction division, all factories are now working a five-day week. Except for the small

## London &amp; Continental climbs 21pc

By Richard Allen

London & Continental Advertising, the specialist advertising group headed by Mr John Goffar, an Associated Discs director, lifted pre-tax profits by 21 per cent to £260,000 last year.

The group, which reversed into Associated Tea Estates of Ceylon in 1979, was one of the first companies to join the Stock Exchange's unlisted securities market, which opened last November.

A final dividend of just 0.14p gross represents the first payment since the group achieved public status through the reverse takeover.

Mr Goffar said yesterday that each of the company's divisions progressed well in what was a difficult year for industry generally.

The group, which first specialised in selling advertising for hotel display, has been expanding fast in the poster business recently. Last year it won exclusive advertising rights to the Central Milton Keynes Shopping Area, and the main ferry terminus for the port of Dover.

Forward sales contracts now top £1m and with around £750,000 of cash, the group has embarked upon a substantial site acquisition programme. Group turnover last year rose from £909,000 to £1.2m.

## Metal Box buys 49pc of Irish group

Metal Box has agreed with Borden Inc. to purchase a 49 per cent interest in Borden International Packaging, an Irish metal can maker.

The purchase price of IR£1m is payable in cash by instalments over an 18-month period.

The company operates a factory at Ashy in the Republic of Ireland manufacturing cans for dried food products. Can manufacture will continue after completion of the new arrangements, and Metal Box will be supplying to Borden technical and general assistance. Plans are in hand to develop further can production in the Republic.

## Anglo-Indonesian offer for Eva lapses

The offer by Anglo-Indonesian Corporation for Eva Industries has now lapsed.

Acceptances were received for 355,980 shares of Eva (3.80 per cent). Anglo and its subsidiaries owned 2.58m shares (27.57 per cent) before the offer, and have purchased a further 362,000 shares (3.87 per cent) during offer period.

The combined shareholding of Anglo and those taking in concert with it, exclusive of acceptances, now totals 40.31 per cent of Eva's share capital.

## Martin Black holds its market share

Over the first quarter of the current year, the Martin-Black wire rope group has continued to experience the low levels of activity seen in the latter part of 1980. Mr Ian Morrow, chairman, says in his annual report that the group has, however, held its share of the market and is within its cash limits.

## Moss Engineering buys spares group

Environmental engineer Moss Engineering Group is strengthening its engineering goods wholesale and retail activities by paying £750,000 for a Welsh auto factoring business, McJohns, which trades in motor parts, spares and accessories at Cardiff and Barry.

Moss sees the acquisition as a further step in their expansion into engineering goods markets.

## Benn Brothers sells four of its titles

Benn Brothers has sold four of its titles. These comprise the trade journal, Shipping World and Shipbuilder and the Banner Publishing Company for £100,000 cash and the directories Ports of the World and International Shipping Volumes I and II to Lloyd's of London Press for £203,400 in cash.

In the last financial year the net profits attributable to these publications represented 4 per cent of the group's net profit before tax.

## New oil company seeks up to \$20m in Europe

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Pearshall Petroleum, a new company which will take a share in United States oil development and exploration, is planning to raise up to US\$20m (£12.5m) through a private placing of shares with London and European institutions.

Up to 2m shares are being offered at \$10 each and providing at least \$7.5m is raised, Pearshall will get a stock market quote in Luxembourg and seek permission for a public offering in London towards the end of May under Rule 163 (1).

Tipperary Corporation, a Texas oil and gas production and exploration company, is forming Pearshall and under a partnership agreement with

Tipperary the bulk of money will be used to drill up to 100 wells in the Austin Cretaceous in Texas.

Mr Bernard Feshbach, president of Californian investment bankers Feshbach & Sons, explained that Austin Chalk was an established oil-bearing area and about 80 per cent of the wells drilled there should prove economically successful. He said several well-known London institutions had already underwritten the offering. Pearshall is expected to make regular quarterly dividend payments when income starts to accrue about 90 days after the deal is completed. Pearshall plans to pay out half of its share of income generated.

## Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	12%
Barclays	12%
BCCI	12%
Consolidated Credits	12%
C. Hoare & Co	12%
Lloyds Bank	12%
Midland Bank	12%
Nat Westminster	12%
TSB	12%
Williams and Glyn's	12%

\* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and over 9% over £50,000 10% over

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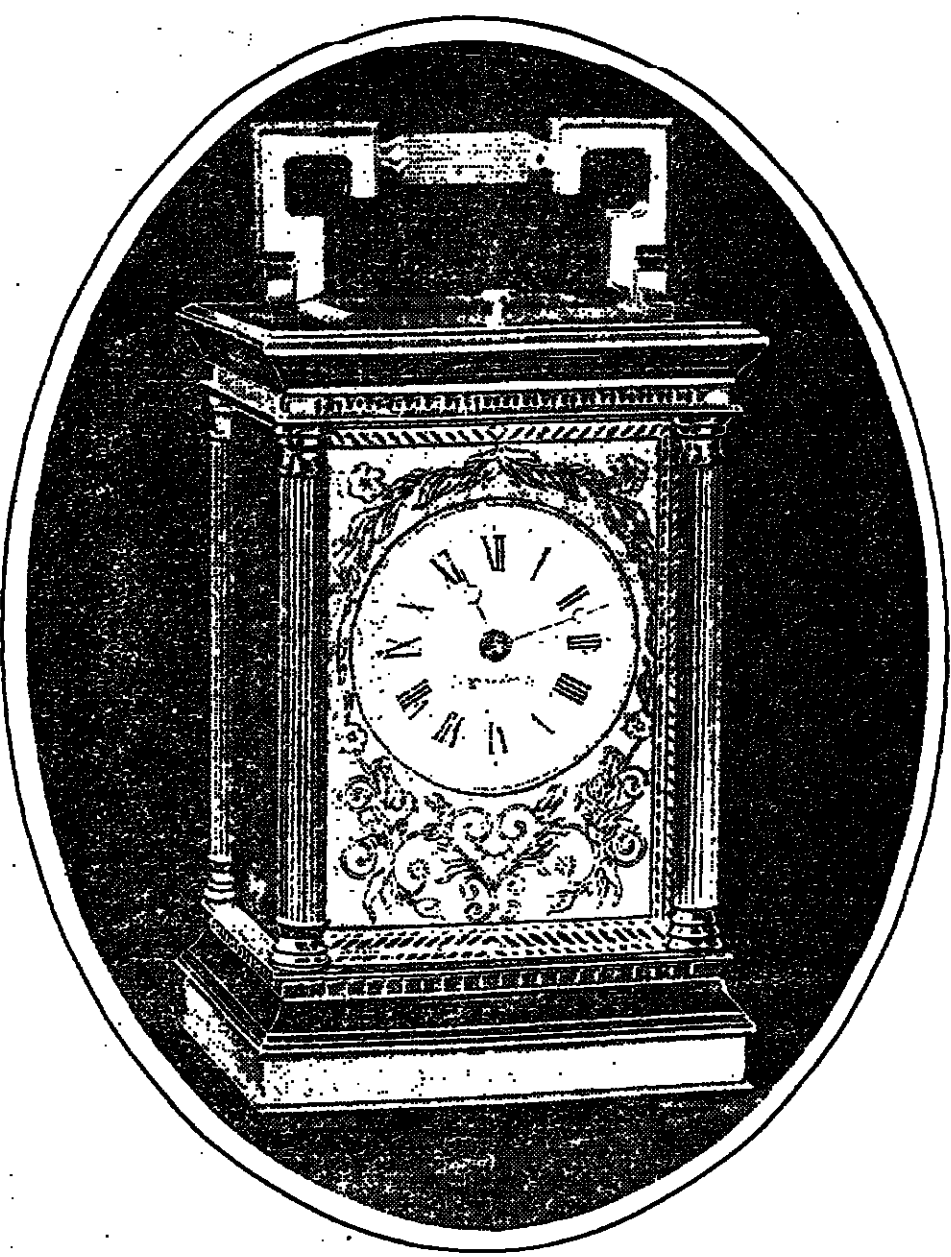
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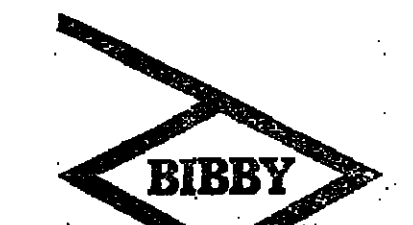
The Over-Counter Market

1980-81	High	Low	Comp.	Price	Ch's	Gr.	1M	P.E.
75	39	Airsprung G	72	-	4.7	65	11.4	
50	21	Armitage & ties	49	-	1.4	20	20.2	
192	92	Eardon Hill	191	-	9.7	5.0	4.9	
98	68	Deborah Ser	98	-	5.5	6.0	3.3	
126	68	Frank Horse	106	+1	6.4	3.0	22.2	
110	39	Frederick P	51	+1	1.7	4.6	-	
110	68	George Blair	68	-	3.1	6.5	4.0	
110	59	Jackson Grou	106	-	6.9	6.8	9.6	
124	103	James Burrou	117	-1	7.9	6.8	-	
334	244	Robert Jenkin	320	-	31.3	9.8	3.8	
55	50	Scruttons "A	52	-	5.3	10.2	3.6	
224	209	Torday Limit	209	-	15.1	7.2	-	
23	8	Twinkl Ord	111	-	-	-	-	
90	69	Twinkl 15%	72	-	150	30.3	6.9	
56	35	Unilock Holdi	45	-	3.0	6.6	5.6	
103	81	Walter Alexan	101	-	5.7	5.6	-	
263	181	W. S. Yeates	253	-	13.1	5.1	4.8	

## Reward for effort



In February this year, the Lord Mayor of London presented J. Bibby & Sons Limited with a Corinthian carriage clock for winning The Accountant and Stock Exchange Large Company Award for the best report and accounts for 1979. We made further improvements in 1980 with a record profit for the fifth successive year.



The Industrial and Agricultural Group

Copies of the latest report and accounts may be obtained from The Secretary, J. Bibby & Sons Limited, Richmond House, 1 Rumford Place, Liverpool L3 9QQ



CHAIRMAN, LESLIE YOUNG REPORTS ON THE YEAR ENDED 27 DECEMBER 1980. Profit before tax for the year rose by 11.5 per cent to a record £10,822,000 compared with £9,705,600 in 1979. Profit for shareholders after tax and extraordinary items was £8,369,000. Earnings per Ordinary share rose from 18.61p to 19.98p fully taxed. It is proposed to pay shareholders a final dividend of 4.925p per 50p share which together with the interim dividend of 2.20p makes a total of 7.125p (1979 6.25p) for the year, an increase of 14 per cent. I am confident of a further overall increase in profit before tax for the current year.











# Salerooms and Antiques



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Today, Tuesday, 14 April, at 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.  
ENGLISH AND FOREIGN COINS, ORDERS AND  
CAMPAIGN MEDALS, BANKNOTES, Catalogue 22.30.  
Tuesday, 14 April, at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.  
FINE JAPANESE CERAMICS, LACQUER AND  
METALWORK, Catalogue 23.  
Wednesday, 15 April, at 11 a.m.  
IMPORTANT JEWELS, Catalogue 22.30.  
Wednesday, 15 April and Thursday, 16 April, at 11 a.m.  
each day  
BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY OF THE LATE ERIC  
SEXTON, F.S.A. removed from Rockport, Maine,  
Catalogue 23.  
Thursday, 16 April, at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.  
FINE ENGLISH FURNITURE, EASTERN RUGS AND  
CARPETS, Catalogue 22.30.

**EASTERN BANK HOLIDAY**  
Christie's King Street will be closed on Good Friday,  
17 April, through to Easter Monday, 20 April, and will  
re-open on Tuesday, 21 April. Sales will commence on  
Wednesday, 22 April with Indian, Himalayan and South  
East Asian, Persian and Islamic Works of Art.

**OVERSEAS SALES**  
IN ROME  
AT THE PALAZZO MASSIMO LANCELOTTI  
Tuesday, 28 April, at 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.  
PORCELAIN, Catalogue 22.  
Wednesday, 29 April at 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.  
RENAISSANCE MEDIC AND BAROQUE MEDALS  
AND GOLD COINS, Catalogue 22.

**IN AUSTRALIA**  
AT THE AGE GALLERY, 250 SPENCER STREET,  
MELBOURNE  
Tuesday, 28 April, and Wednesday, 29 April.  
THE JOHN AND MARGARET STREETER LIBRARY.  
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## CHRISTIE'S AGENTS IN BRITAIN AND IRELAND

Interests:  
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## OLD COINS REWARD WARD

**Buying Selling**  
English-Sovereigns 55 58  
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All transactions in cash,  
confidential and reliable.  
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Our dealers price for our up  
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## Spink Buy Jewellery & Silver

Spink & Sons Ltd  
King Street, London SW1  
Telephone 01-930 7888 (24 hours)  
Established 1666

## NOTICE

All advertisements are subject  
to the conditions of acceptance  
of Times Newspapers Limited,  
copies of which are available  
on request.

## EASTER EXTRA

Home hunting can be tiring, laborious and frustrating.  
It's not often that you have the opportunity to do it  
from your leisure in Springtime, with an attractive  
selection of varied properties to pick and choose from.  
"Easter Viewing" is our answer to the home hunters'  
prayer. It will appear on April 18th, Easter Saturday—  
giving you the benefit of the Easter holiday to travel  
around the country and find the haunted castle,  
London flat, country estate or seaside cottage of  
your choice.  
Whether you are hoping to buy or struggling to sell  
"Easter Viewing" is your ideal platform.  
RING 01-837 3311  
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(estate agents)

now to ensure an early booking, and don't forget to  
buy your copy on April 18th—it could prove to be a  
golden egg.

## Harrods ESTATE OFFICES

**THIS WEEK'S  
AUCTION SALES**  
Wednesday the 15th  
CARPETS & RUGS  
at 10 a.m.  
ANTIQUE & MODERN  
FURNITURE  
at 10.30 a.m.  
SECONDARY SALE  
Thursday the 16th  
OBJECTS D'ART, etc.  
at 10 a.m.  
WATERCOLOURS & PRINTS  
View today at 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.  
ARUNDEL TERRACE,  
by Transatlantic Bridge  
Tel: 746 2738/2080  
Next Sale: 6th and 7th May.

## DAVID BLACK ORIENTAL CARPETS 96 Portland Road W11 Tel: 01-727 2566

## BUY

**FIND-A-FACE**  
Over 10,000 portraits from May  
1600-1940. April and  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays.  
CROOKING PRINTS  
25-35 Shilling Street  
Covent Garden, W.C.2  
01-626 1979

## COUNTRY PROPERTIES

**FEEL LIKE A CHANGE?  
LOOK NORTH**  
For under £20,000 you can now  
have a home in the North. We have  
a house with a garden and an income.  
Send for our free brochure  
containing details of our first  
house. We will arrange for you  
to view the house. We will  
offer you confidential advice  
for more than 25 years we have  
been helping people to find  
the right house in the North.  
We have a house in the North.  
We have a house in the North.  
We have a house in the North.

By placing this Business Page advertisement Mr. Kay  
found The Times Business Page brought him results  
IF YOU NEED RESULTS TOO, PHONE ALEXANDRA SALT ON  
01-782 9231.

## New Bond Street.

Sotheby Parke Bernet & Co., 34-35 New Bond Street,  
London W1A 2AA Telephone: (01) 493 8080  
Tuesday 14th April at 12 noon  
IMPORTANT ITALIAN MAOLICA  
Cat. (30 illus.) £25  
Tuesday 14th April at approximately 11.30 am  
immediately following the sale of Important Italian  
Maolica  
CONTINENTAL POTTERY Cat. (62 illus.) £7.50

Other salerooms and offices: Bournemouth (0202) 23425/6; Cambridge (0223) 67624/5; Chancery Lane (01) 510500;  
Chester (0244) 315331; Edinburgh (031) 226 7201; Glasgow (043) 221 4871; Harrogate (043) 501465; Jersey (0534) 43468; Perth (0793) 5831;  
Sligo Droghda 24401; Tarrington (0223) 88441; Torquay (0829) 26577

## MEDALS

Orders, decorations and  
medals purchased. Con-  
sult Brian Woodcock our  
specialist. No commis-  
sion and immediate  
settlement.  
William Whelan Ltd.  
8-9 Crown Passage, Pall Mall  
St. James's, London SW1Y 6PP  
Telephone 01-930 3995/8547

## LONDON FLATS

S.W.1, near Piccadilly, Victorian tube  
station, 2 bed, 1 bath, quiet, sunny, modern  
kitchen, private courtyard, fully modern  
bathroom, service, £12,500. 2 bed, 1 bath,  
£10,500. 3 bed, 1 bath, £12,500. 4 bed, 1 bath,  
£15,000. 5 bed, 1 bath, £18,000. 6 bed, 1 bath,  
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